The Official Magazine of World Championship Wrestling

Issue 27 May 1997

WCW mag

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OUTRAGE!

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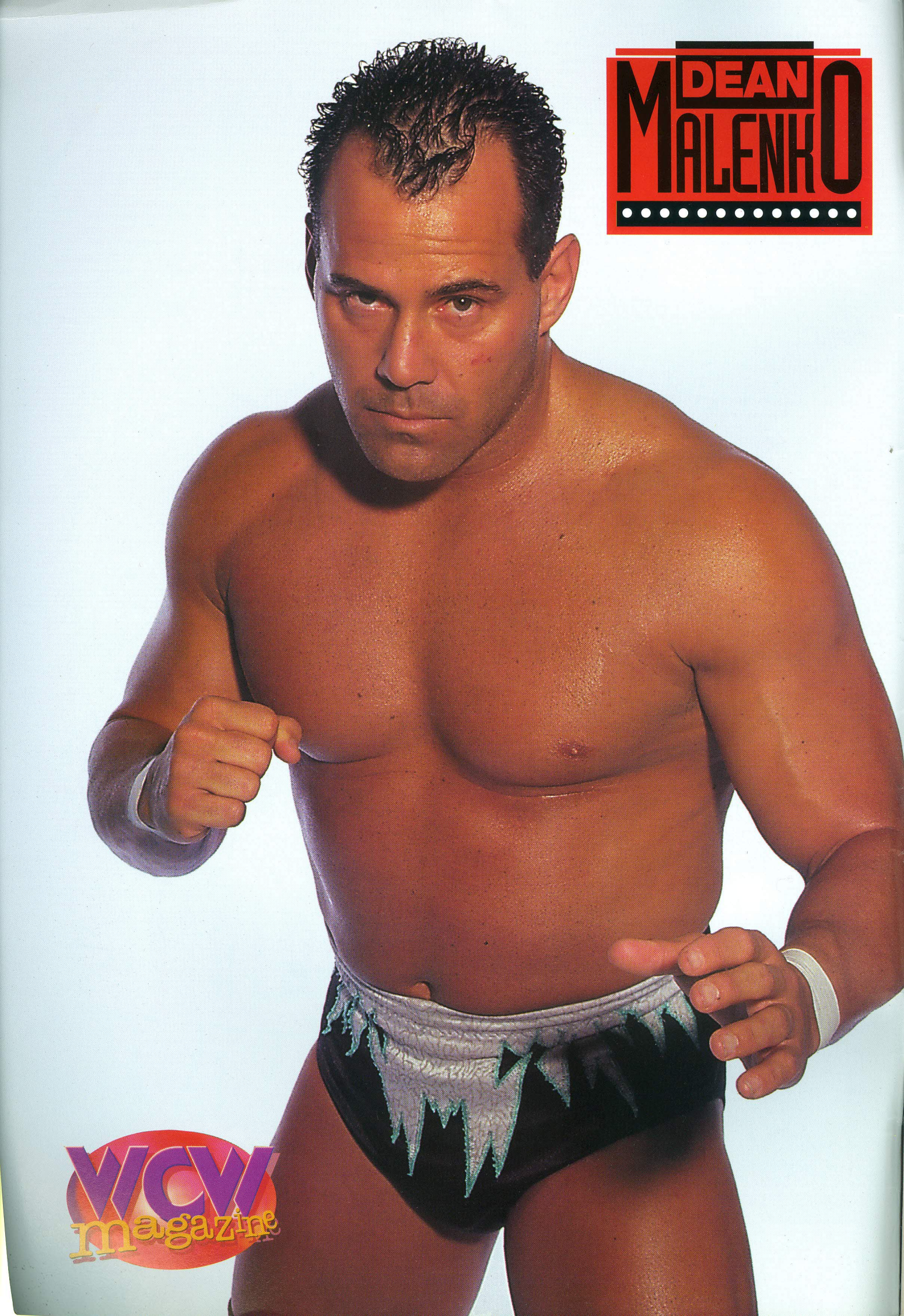
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COLIN BOWMAN
Editor/Publication Director

MIKIE DE MELLO
Assistant Editor

ROSS FORMAN
Executive Editor

FOR
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
DR. HARVEY SCHILLER
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BOBBY HEENAN,
MIKE TENAY,
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STEVE LAMPON GAVIN MOWER
Executive Art Directors

ROS SAMUELSON TIM DIGNON
RAY CHARLES
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MARTIN COX
Production Manager

DUNCAN WEB OFFSET
Printer

J. STOLL
COLIN BOWMAN
MARK HILL
ANDREW ECCLES
Photography

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EDITOR'S NOTE

OUTRAGE!

The word on the cover sums up exactly how every WCW employee and fan feels about the continued domination The NWO seems to exert over this company.

I applauded Dr. Harvey Schiller, the President of WCW for his decision to suspend Eric Bischoff. However, he has not taken enough steps to ensure that Bischoff really does have nothing to do with the wrestling business. Far from it. Since Dr. Schiller's edict, it seems to me that we are seeing more of Mr. Smug on every show and at every event.

I am sure a remedy for this would be for Dr. Schiller to appoint someone very quickly to fill Bischoff's role in WCW as Executive Vice-President. Then we could match fire with fire.

The big question is who?

Well I would like to put forward a few contenders.

J.J. Dillon. - Currently working in WCW's front office, the former Four Horsemen mentor, definitely has the strength of character and wrestling know-how to assume day-to-day control of WCW. However, he has yet to prove himself trustworthy and there is always the danger that WCW could become a haven for thugs and renegades under his control. Well that won't be much of a change the way things stand at the moment.

Ric Flair - Nobody epitomizes WCW more than Ric Flair. The big problem here would be ego. Flair has one of the biggest in the sport and you can be sure he would abuse his position of power to ensure that The Four Horsemen were moved into the top spot at every show.

Dusty Rhodes - Again, another who is rich in wrestling knowledge and acknowledged as one of the fairest competitors ever in the sport. The downside here is that Dusty has been away from the day to day running of a wrestling company for so long now that he may have lost touch with what the fans want to see today.

Kevin Sullivan - Say what you will, he has always been an innovator and proven he can take control of even the stickiest situations. However, he is one of the sickest individuals to ever pull on a pair of wrestling tights and I am sure that in no time WCW Monday Nitro, would become WCW Monday Night Sacrifice. Don't believe me? Just ask Hardbody Harrison after his match against Sullivan at Spring Break-out.

Bobby Heenan - Only joking.

Tony Schiavone - The consummate play-by-play commentator has been at WCW as long as Bischoff and in fact was as much under consideration for the top job as Eric. Solid and reliable, his knowledge of WCW's history is unmatched. The only worry would be his ability to stand up to the might of The NWO.

Larry Zbyszko - Outspoken. Brash. A Living Legend. Although Larry has had no experience running a wrestling company, he has been around the sport long enough to know what's what. He continually brings fresh and enlightened insights to the Monday Nitro show and could perhaps, be just the man to head up a WCW fightback.

'Rowdy' Roddy Piper - His previous stints at the head of wrestling organizations could hardly be deemed a success. Piper's legendary temper often get's the better of him and he prefers to talk with his fists. It's an effective way to settle an argument, but really has no place in the politically correct '90's. The Turner executives would die of heart failure as they watched Roddy's decision making techniques.

There are many more possibilities to consider. Paul Orndorff and Terry Taylor can post equally valid claims to most of the above. In the end the decision will be Dr. Harvey Schiller's. I just hope he makes it soon.

OUTRAGE !(2)

Has anybody in wrestling ever been a victim of as many low and dirty tricks as 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper. Twice now, he has had Hogan beat only for more NWO bs to cost him the title. Although Team Piper lost at Uncensored, I hope that he will still manage to gain another title shot against Hogan and this time in a steel cage. Only then will Hogan's ability be truly tested.

OUTRAGE !(3)

When Miss Elizabeth was first aligned with The NWO we were convinced she was being forced into membership. How wrong we all were. When she grabbed that spray can and joined in the attack on Kimberly and DDP we were left in no doubt that she was a fully paid up, card carrying member of The NWO. Don't believe it? Take a look at the glee on her face during this outrage. She was like a cat who had found an never ending supply of cream. How little she remembers. It wasn't too long ago, when it was her in Kim's position being cajoled, sprayed and violated. For weeks after her own attack she was unable to talk about it. We just look forward to the day when she get's her just desserts, and Kimberly gets her chance to return the favor.

BANG! Self Hi Five!

Regards

Colin Bowman
Editor

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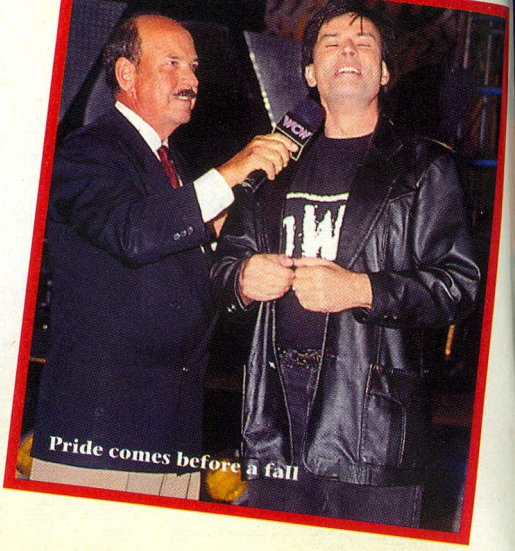
WCW UPdate

SUSPENDED!


Pride comes before a fall

At long last the corporate powers-that-be decided to take action against Eric Bischoff in light of the inappropriate decisions he has been making of late. And what a place to do it. In front of a sell-out crowd at The Omni in Atlanta on March 3, 1997, right on WCW's front doorstep.

Let's take a look back at the night when "Mr." Bischoff was put firmly in his place.

After Mean Gene introduced him, Bischoff came strutting out, all smiles and exuding the confidence of a man who believed he was "King." How wrong he was.

The interview went as follows;

Mean Gene: "Mr. Bischoff, I'd like your sense of what's happening right now in light of what's happened over the last 7 days."

Eric Bischoff: "Well let me say thank you to Lex Luger. Although he's not authorised to issue any kind of a challenge on behalf of WCW, I am, and I can accept. I am the most powerful man in the wrestling industry and The NWO would love to step in the ring at Uncensored and put it all up. Our belts against WCW's future. Because after all everybody here in Atlanta knows, everybody all over the country knows, that if it wasn't for Eric Bischoff and The NWO and the most powerful force in the universe, "Hollywood" Hogan, Scott Hall, Kevin Nash, "Macho Man" Randy Savage, you people wouldn't be here. You owe a debt of gratitude and you're welcome."

(Deafening boos from the crowd).

MG: "You can hear how much they love you, they are absolutely on their feet cheering for you tonight."

EB: "They absolutely are, because they know ... (A huge cheer goes up as Dr. Harvey Schiller emerges behind an unsuspecting Eric. A smug Bischoff raises his hands to acknowledge the crowd. Dr. Schiller tries to attract Eric's attention, but Eric is more intent on applauding the crowd.)"

MG. "Excuse me!"

(Eric turns round and sees Dr. Schiller and backs away).

Dr.S: "Hey Eric."

EB: "Dr. Schiller ... good to see you, sir."

Dr.S: "We need to talk."

EB: "What do we need to talk about."

MG: "Wait a minute, this is the President of Turner Sports, your boss."

EB: "I know who he is."

MG: "This is Dr. Harvey Schiller, this cannot bode well for you."

Dr.S: "Do you think that just because you have a contract, that you have total control of World Championship Wrestling?"

EB: "Well it is my understanding that I am the Executive Vice-president and I run World Championship Wrestling, so yeah."

Dr.S: "Do you also believe that because you have a contract you can fire referees whenever you want?"

MG: "That's a good point."

EB: "There were extenuating circumstances, Mr. Schiller ..."

MG: "That's Dr. Schiller!"

EB: "... you know that. I'm doing the best that I can."

Dr.S: "Do you believe that because you have a contract you can break the rules of professional wrestling and that you can take titles away from people at will?"

MG: "Well what about that?"

EB: "My understanding is, Harvey, that, yes I can."

Dr.S: "Well you might have a contract, but as of now you are suspended."

EB: "That can't happen!"

MG: "What do you mean? It has happened."

EB: "Seriously, all kidding aside ..."

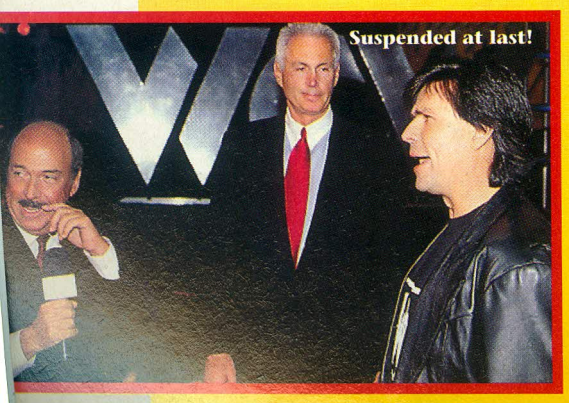
Dr.S: "We're not kidding! You have no more financial responsibilities, you can sign no more contracts."

EB: "Wait a minute ..."

MG: "Let's see you backtrack on this, Bischoff."

EB: "I just think we need to talk a little bit more about this."

Dr.S: "I don't even want to know that you are answering the telephone."


Suspended at last!

EB: "I think you are taking this a little too far, with all due respect, Dr. Schiller."

Dr.S: "I don't even want to hear that there was a rumor that you were in a men's room at a WCW event."

EB: "Wait a minute, wait a minute. I have attorneys. Dr Schiller ... Dr Schiller."

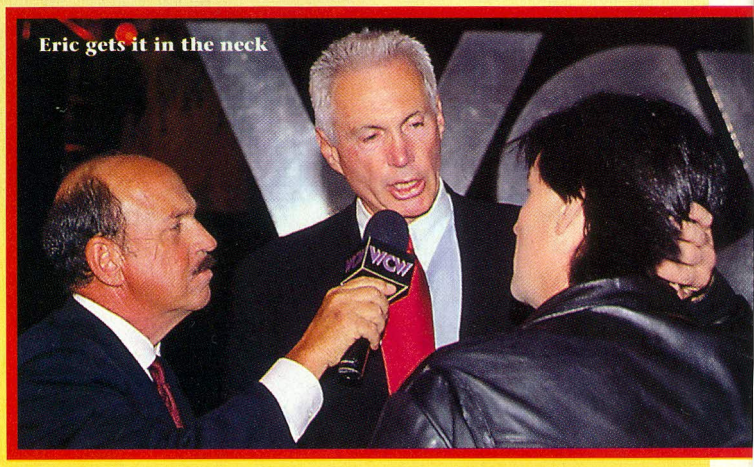
(Dr. Schiller leaves and is pursued by the whining Bischoff, while the crowd vent their approval of the decision).

Following the show Dr. Schiller visited the WCW Internet chat rooms and this is what he had to say.

Question: Who's going to run WCW now?

Dr. Schiller: "I'll appoint somebody new."

Q: What activities did you suspend him for?


Eric gets it in the neck

Dr.S: "Unfair control of WCW, firing referees without authority, breaking the rules of WCW and stripping people of their rightful titles."

Q: How long is the suspension for?

Dr.S: "Indefinite, for now."

Q: Why are you doing Ted Turner's job for him?

Dr.S: "I am not. I'm still the president of WCW."

Q: What happens with the nWo? Will he be allowed to appear with them?

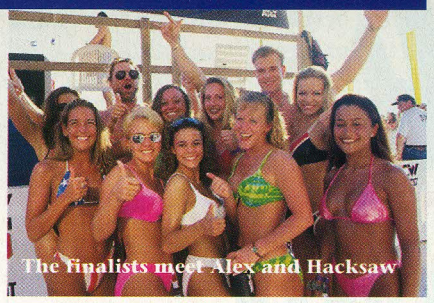
Dr.S: "I instructed him that he is NO LONGER to be associated with the sport of wrestling."

Following those comments, Dr. Schiller was mobbed by WCW superstars and announcers congratulating him on his actions.

Eric Bischoff was unavailable for comment.

SPRING BREAK-OUT

Spring Breakers mobbed WCW's stars

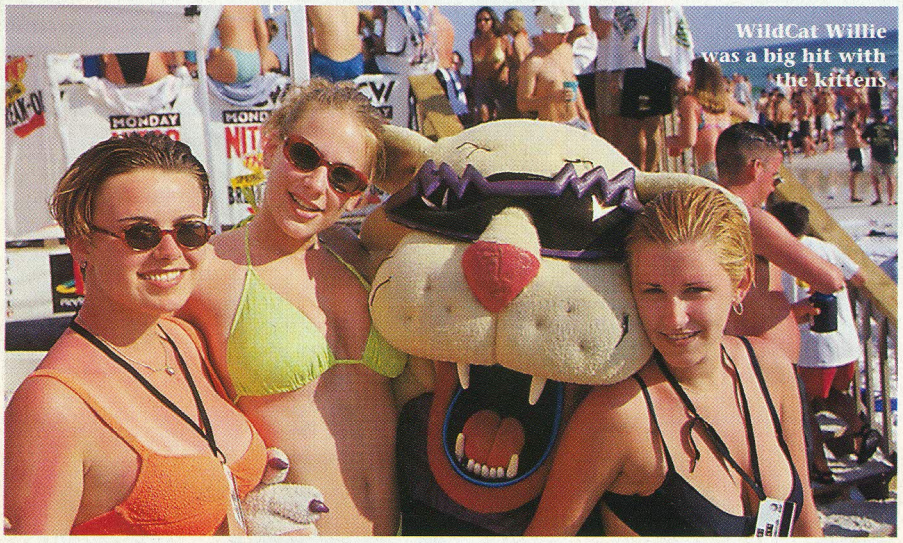

The finalists meet Alex and Hacksaw

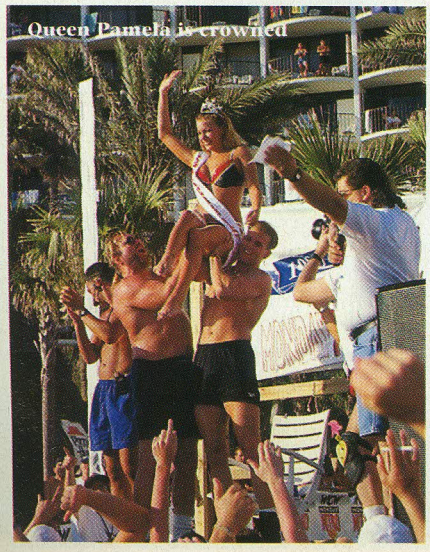
As part of the celebrations that surround that American tradition, Spring Break, WCW took Monday Nitro Live to Panama City, the official US headquarters for 1997.

Hacksaw Jim Duggan, Nasty Boy Brian Knobs and Alex Wright arrived in town three days beforehand and toured the city, sampling the full flavor of Spring Break, with various activities and events for the students in Panama City to partake in.

The major event was the Miss Monday Nitro 1997 competition which attracted hundreds of beautiful competitors from all over the world. The eventual winner, who was crowned by Alex Wright and Hacksaw Jim Duggan was Miss Pamela Rodgers from Tennessee Tech.

That Monday Nitro show from Panama City on March 10, 1997 was one of the most unique in wrestling history. Emanating from the World's largest nightclub, La Vela, the wrestling ring was floated in the open air over a swimming pool. Fortunately Hardbody Harrison was the only wrestler who tasted life as a fish that night.


WildCat Willie was a big hit with the kittens


Queen Pamela is crowned

Keith is congratulated by Harlem Heat

SONY WINNER

Keith Phillips, age 31, from Ogden, Utah emerged victorious from the the thousands of competitors who took part in the nationwide Sony Playstation Tobal No.1 competition.

Keith won the final which took place at Planet Hollywood in San Francisco and as part of his prize got to have lunch with Harlem Heat and also ringside seats for SuperBrawl.

Following the tournament, Booker T. stated his claims to be the real Tobal champion of the world by defeating every competitor including Keith.

Maybe next year Booker.

Luna-tic

Calm before the storm

Well it was only a matter of time before she showed up and what an entrance she made.

When Luna Vachon ran out and attacked Madusa at the Omni, she was serving notice to every woman in WCW that she intends to claim the WCW Women's title.

Mad as a March hare, Luna has long been one of Madusa's most persistent opponents across the world and for a long time had a massive feud with Sister Sherri. Of course, at press time Akira Hokuto was the Women's Champion and she has sent no word as to when and if Luna would be granted a title shot.

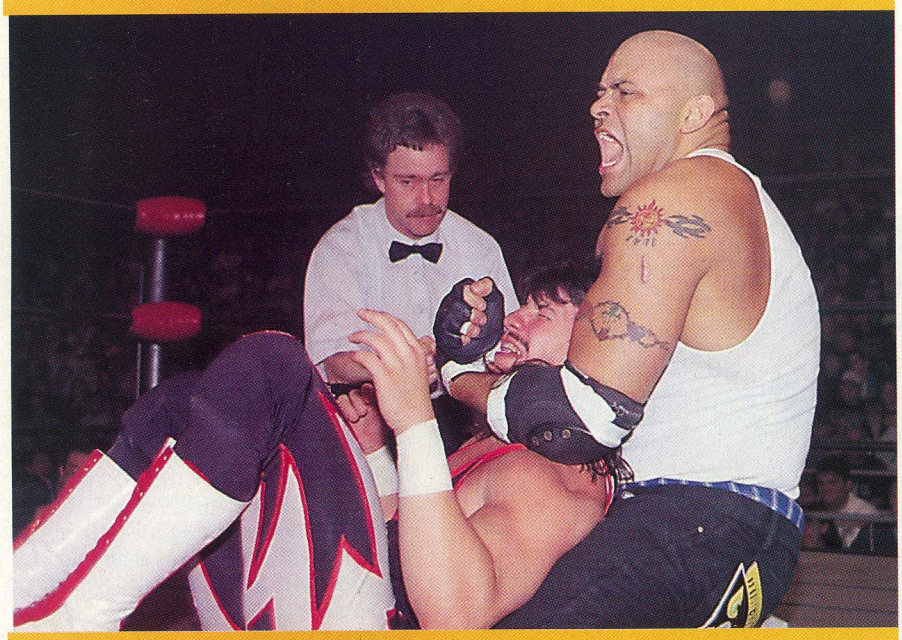
We tried to contact Luna after the attack, but she just snarled at us and walked away.

Madusa said, "I am sick and tired of all these women just turning up and declaring themselves the No.1 contender. I am the No.1 contender. I will defeat anybody who stands in my way. No more Miss Nice Gal. Luna, Jacquelyn, Woman, Debra, Elizabeth, Hokuto and even you Sherri, you know where I am, if you fancy your chances. Madusa is numero uno and none of you will change that."

TAG Talk

In the USA or Canada, write to:
Tag Talk,
WCW Magazine,
One CNN Center,
Box No.105366, Atlanta,
GA30348-5366
In the UK or Ireland, write to:
Tag Talk, WCW Magazine,
Howl Ltd,
21/23 Earl Street,
Maidstone, Kent,ME14 1PL
or send your comments to us via E-Mail.Our address is
WCWMAG@aol.com

MORE KONAN

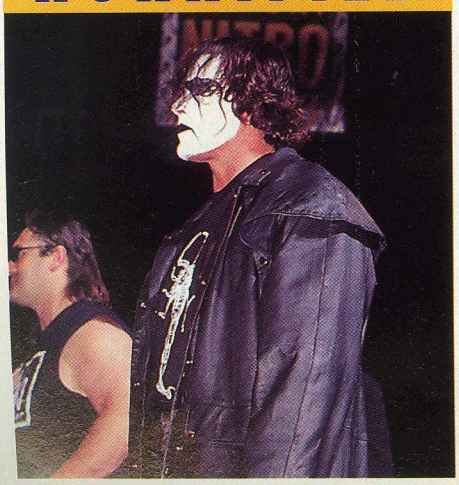


Dear Tag Talk,

I have to say that I haven't seen much of Konan these days. What has happened to him? I used to spend hours on end watching his matches over and over again, learning his moves, and then trying them out on my younger brothers and some of my friends. I miss this, I think Konan should wrestle more often, especially in the pay-per-views. I would really like to see him wrestle live. are you going to have any shows in Kansas?

David Laurence.
Kansas, KS

HORRIFIED



Dear Tag Talk,

I was horrified to see, one week Randy Savage, then the next week Sting join The NWO. I truly believed these two great wrestlers, would be the saving grace of WCW. I thought that now Sting had an ally he would, they would, save WCW from being taken over by those big girls, the ones that call themselves The New World Order.

I knew that Sting had a plan to destroy The NWO from within. I hang on to the hope that he will succeed to get me through these days.

Margrett Salenger
Des Moines, IA.

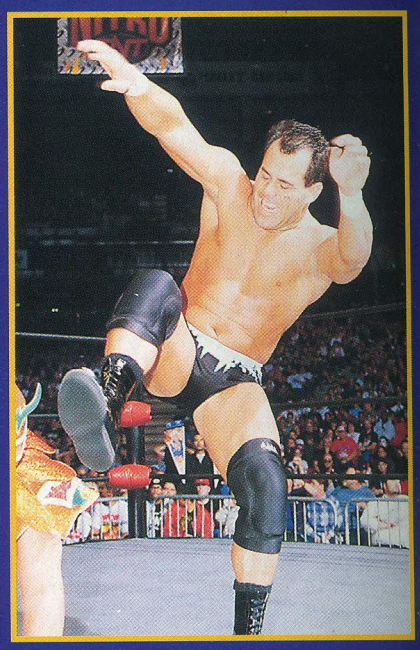
Saviour

Dear Tag Talk,

Diamond Dallas Page is not really a spring chicken but he seems to wrestle a lot better than many of the younger wrestlers. He still manages to get the crowd chanting. DDP is the hottest wrestler in WCW today. You keep saying that Sting is going to save WCW from The NWO. All I can say is: DDP is the one to watch. DDP is the one who is going to bring order back to WCW. Mark my words.

Katherine Collins
San Diego, CA.

ORIGINAL



Dear Tag Talk,

I think that Dean Malenko is one of the most original wrestlers around today. Every match is different. 'The Man of a Thousand Moves,'this really is the truth. Why can't all the wrestlers take lessons from him? I think that he could certainly teach that worn out excuse for a wrestler, "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, how to win a match, as opposed to what he is doing now.

You have to agree with me, Dean, besides being the best wrestler in WCW, is the most gorgeous man in the business as well.

Lisa Thomas
Cleveland, OH.

WHY?

Dear Tag Talk,

Why is Alex Wright still wrestling? His father was one of the greats, what a disappointment his son has been. Alex is an embarrassment to WCW and the entire wrestling business.

The only reason Alex has ever won a match is because his opponent are so sorry for him they have to let him win.

Alex should either train to a reasonable standard or WCW should fire him. I know what I would do.

Allison Banks
Hamden, CT.

Go Eddie

Dear Tag Talk,

Eddie Guerrero has been going from strength to strength in these past few months. He is becoming more and more aggressive. This is the way, I believe, wrestlers should be. I think before, he was just finding his feet. Now he has found his place in WCW he can start pushing the barriers back. He can become the wrestler we all know that he can be. Come on Eddie, keep up the good work. You are on the way to becoming someone really great.

Lee Graham
Lakeland, FL.

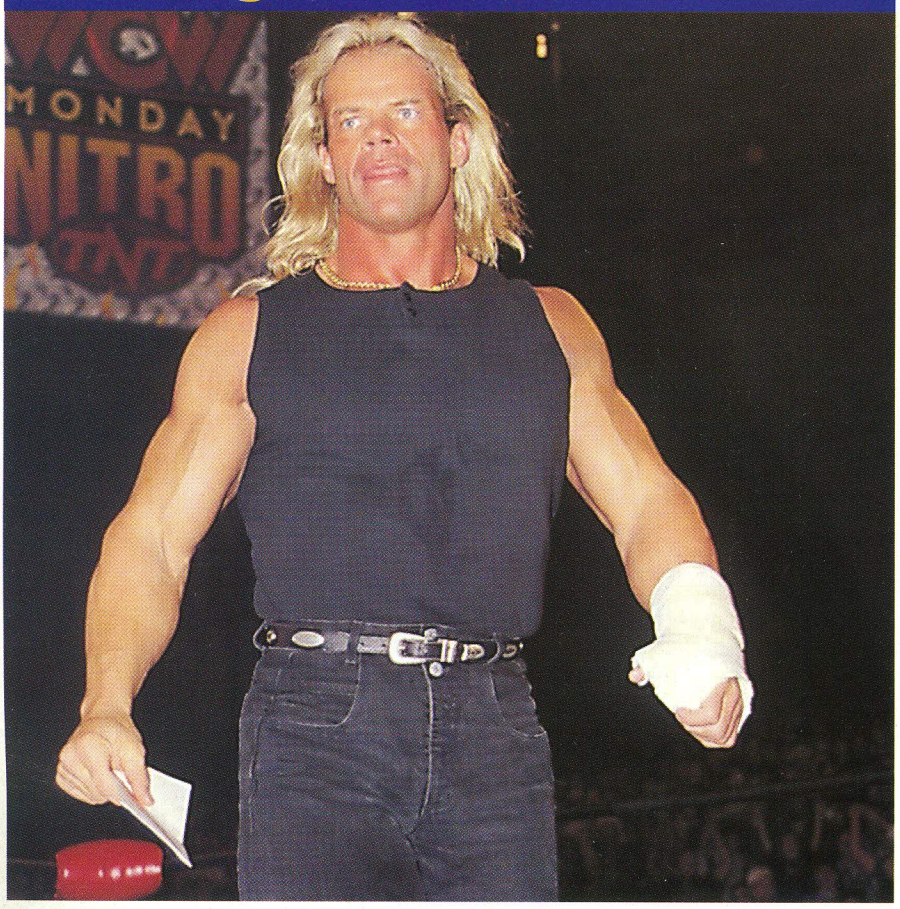
IDIOTS

Dear Tag Talk,

What idiots out there voted for Jimmy Hart in the Readers Awards? Jimmy Hart and managing. Does that go together? I hope I am not the only one to think this is a strange combination. Has anyone ever seen him do anything slightly resembling managing? I have seen him stand around shouting and screaming, helping his wrestlers cheat and just generally playing around. I think he should be stripped of the award, I demand a recount.

Jeff Wilson
Asheville, GA.

Congratulations



Dear Tag Talk,

This letter is different. It is more of a congratulation letter. I was delighted to know that Lex Luger had won Wrestler of the Year. He deserves it. I think he is the greatest wrestler ever. I know he has had a lot of trouble since that horrible misunderstanding with Sting, but he held his head high a got on with his life. Concentrating on becoming bigger and better. He has earned the award. He IS the wrestler of the year.

Susan Trill
Monterey, CA

Attention Subscribers
Important News

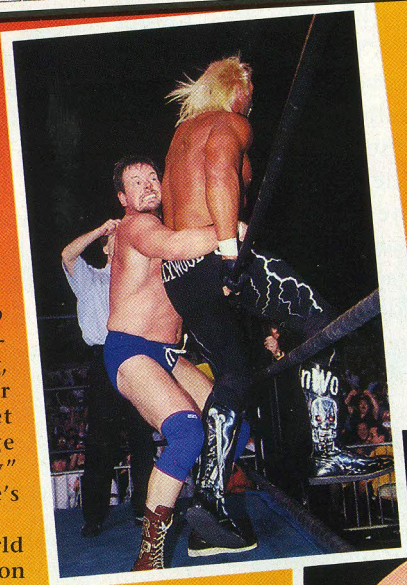
I would just like to thank everybody who has subscribed to WCW Magazine over the past two and a bit years. To try and simplify the process we have just revamped the order coupon and would be grateful if you could take a few moments to review it. The issue that your subscription expires with is printed on your address label each month. Renewal notices will not be sent out, so it is important that you make a note of this number and re-subscribe at least 6 weeks before the end to ensure that you receive every issue without interruption. Can you also make sure that any correspondence sent to us is marked clearly on the outside of the envelope as to whether it is a Renewal, New Subscription or Customer Service Enquiry. In the event of a query, make sure that you supply a telephone number we can contact you on. We now have customer service numbers for you to ring Monday to Friday, 10am - 3pm. In the USA it is 1 407 827 7134 and in Europe it is 00 44 (0)1622 690930. We hope these measures will make the system run even smoother and we look forward to bringing you the best coverage of WCW for a long time to come.

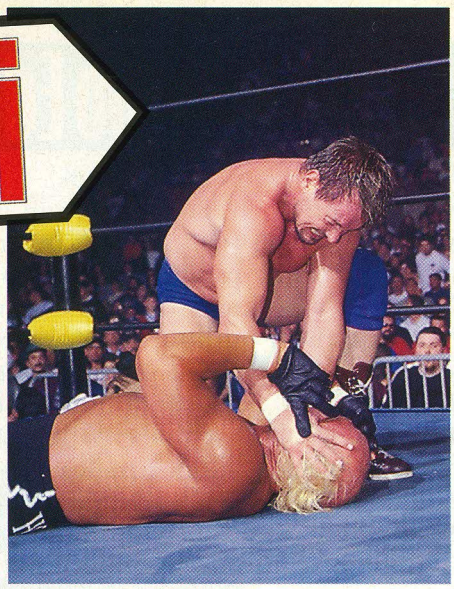
Best wishes,
Colin Bowman
Publisher

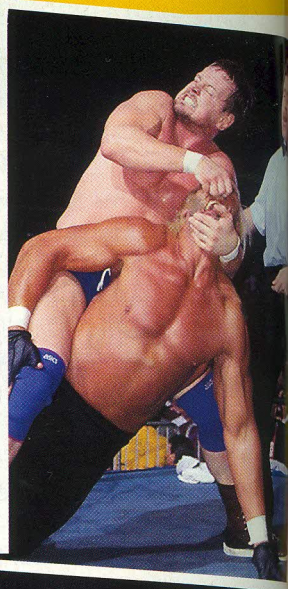
WCW SPECIAL EVENTS 1997

Sunday, June 15,
WCW Great American Bash
Sunday, July 13,
WCW Bash at the Beach
Saturday, Aug. 9,
WCW Hog Wild,
Sturgis, SD
Sunday, Sept. 14,
WCW Fall Brawl
Sunday, Oct. 26,
WCW Halloween Havoc
Sunday, Nov. 23,
WCW World War 3
Sunday, Dec. 28 ,
WCW Starrcade

WCW SuperBrawl VII







SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - "Macho Man" Randy Savage set the record straight here at SuperBrawl VII: He's a card-carrying member of the Black & White Express, aka, The New World Order (NWO). Forget his allegiance to World Championship Wrestling, forget his then-recent alliance with Sting, forget his fondness for the faithful fans, forget everything ... Savage snapped. And "Rowdy" Roddy Piper was Savage's main target.

Savage, a former World Heavyweight Champion on numerous occasions, appeared from the backstage area with Sting about 4:20 into the title tilt between "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. Sting and Savage, each dressed in black, stopped after about 10 steps to watch the in-ring action. Savage ultimately continues to the ringside area, while Sting retreats.

Savage stood in a neutral corner for the next seven or so minutes, then showed his support for The NWO, IN GLOWING FASHION. Savage handed Hogan a pair of brass knuckles, then watched "Hollywood" KO Piper with one swift right-hand. Savage, though, wasn't done with his shenanigans. Let's see, Savage and Hogan:

- *Nailed Piper with brass knuckles;
- Spray-painted the stylish Scotsman.
- Delivered numerous perfectly-placed elbows off the top rope;
- Connected with several legdrops;
- Rammed Piper's head into the mat, oh, about 50 times.

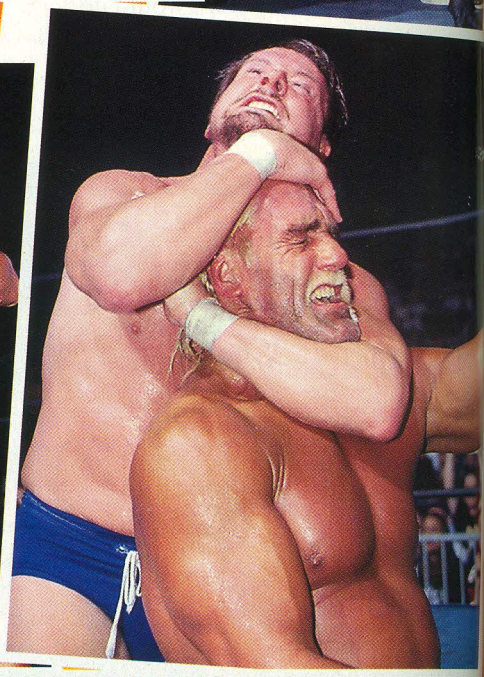
"That one was for the brotherhood," Hogan said after the debacle.

Added "Trillionaire" Ted DiBiase, "Do we ever fail to surprise you?"

Hogan then dragged the World Heavyweight Championship belt over Piper's battered body.

Piper attacked early in this championship clash. He even choked Hogan with his "The Pipes" T-shirt. Piper's offense also included some, well, unorthodox ways: He bit Hogan's forehead, chomped on the champ's nose and repeatedly boxed Hogan's ears. Plus, Piper nailed Hogan with a chair. If that wasn't enough, Piper did Moe, Larry and Curly proud, repeatedly hitting with two fingers to Hogan's eyes. And what happened when Michael Wallstreet and Vincent came to Hogan's aid? They too felt the flame of the fiery Scot. Hogan mounted strong offense at about the six-minute mark when he rammed the small of Piper's back into the guardrail. Just over a minute later, Hogan went with the debilitating bearhug, and it even led to a two-count. The sleeper came into play during the nine-minute mark, and actually appeared as though Piper had claimed the gold. Not so — thanks to Savage, who supported Hogan.

THE WINNER: "HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN. (10.52)



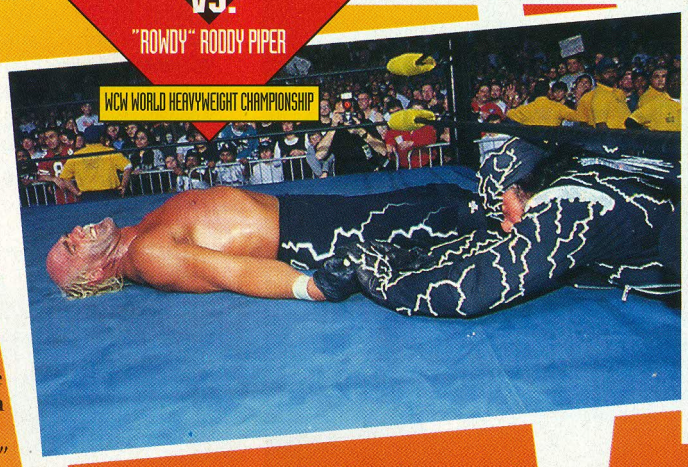
WCW SuperBrawl VII

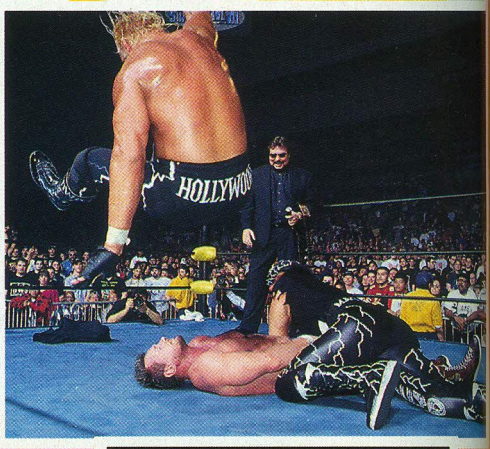
"HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN

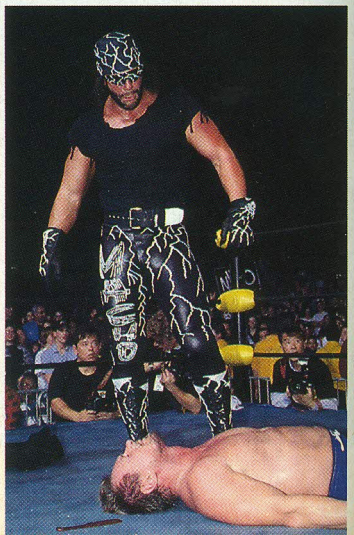
VS.

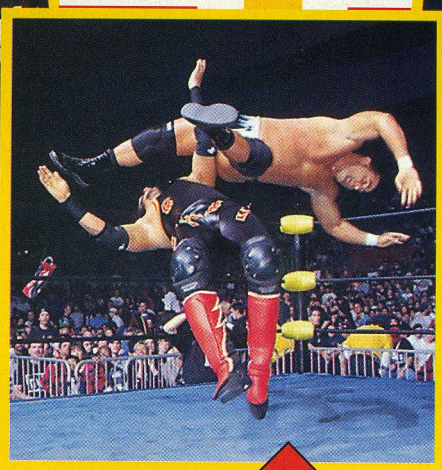
"ROWDY" RODDY PIPER

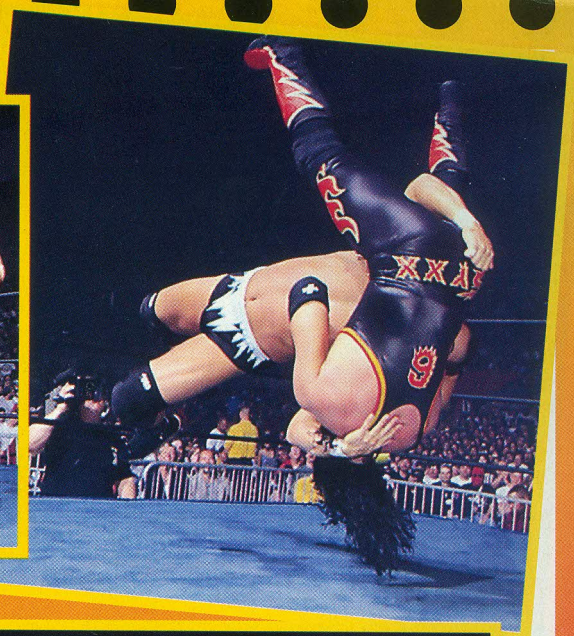
WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP







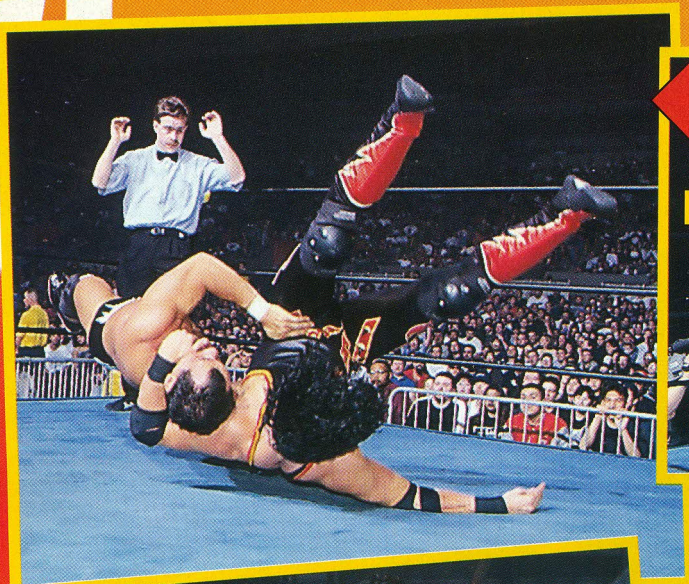


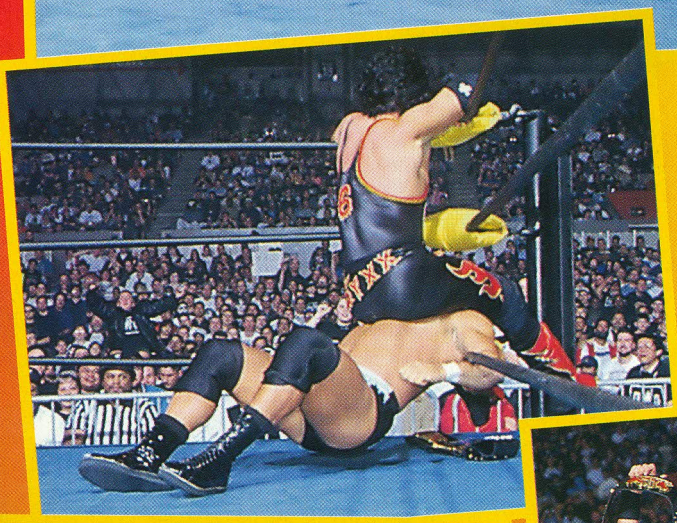


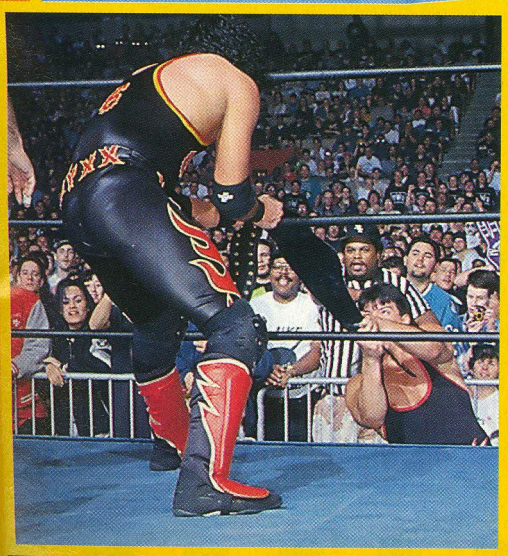
WCW SUPERBRAWL VII

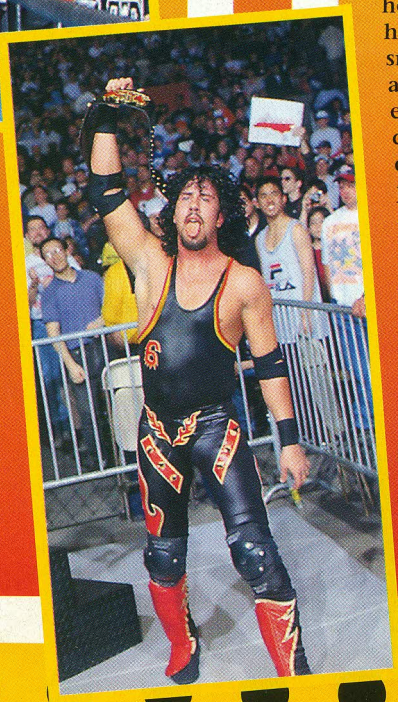
DEAN MALENKO VS. SYXX

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP



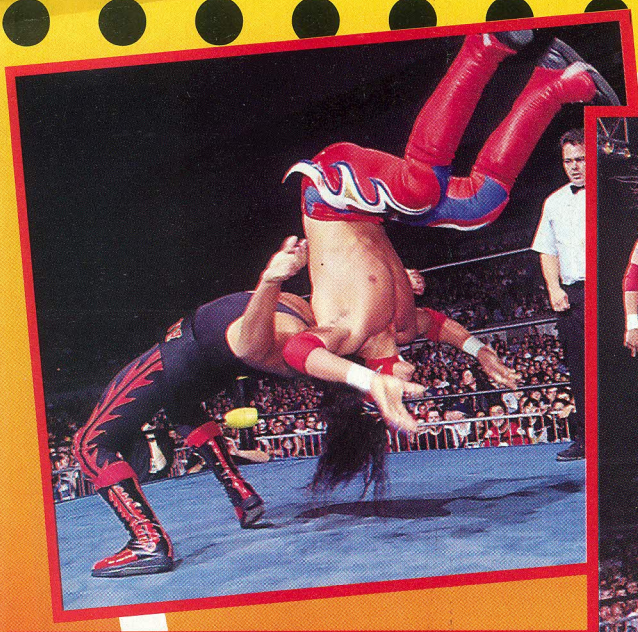


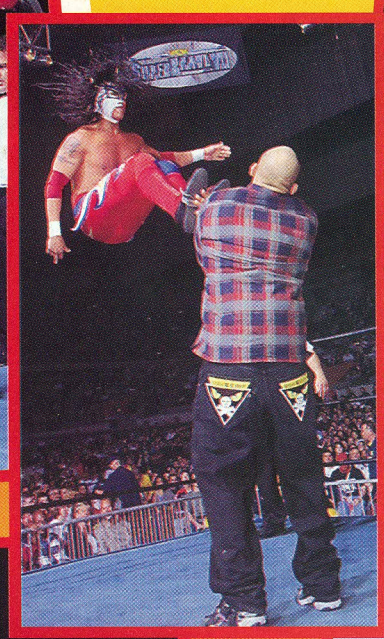


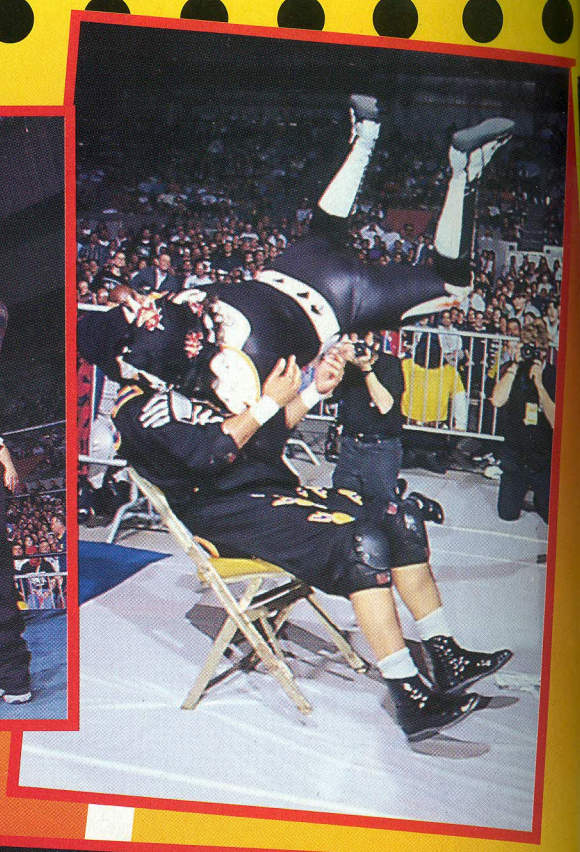


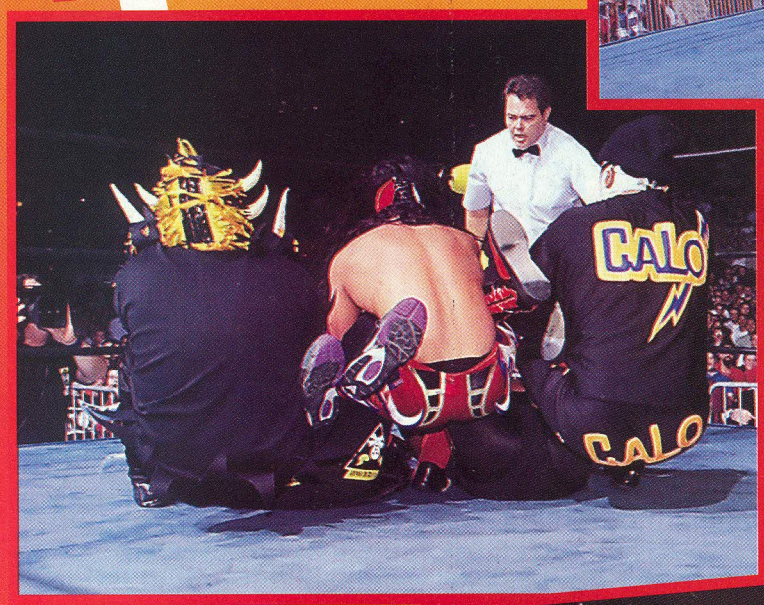
Dean Malenko and Eddie Guerrero have been bitter rivals over the years, yet Guerrero actually sided with The Ice Man. Or so it seemed. When Syxx grabbed the Cruiserweight Championship belt as a weapon, Guerrero sprinted from the dressing room to ringside and grabbed the belt. Malenko then grabbed Syxx, and all three were vying for the strap. As referee Mark Curtis tried to calm the chaos, Malenko was nailed with the steel strap — by Guerrero. Purely accidentally, Guerrero claims. Regardless, it cost Malenko the gold which he dearly covets. "It's La Bamba's fault," Heenan said. "Mind your own business, everyone." Malenko grabbed the early edge in this battle of teacher-vs.-student, attacking Syxx before the bell. And Malenko was all business taking just 15 seconds for his first two-count. Malenko then slapped Syxx in the corner and connected with a brainbuster. Malenko was all offense early on; he even pulled up Syxx and repeatedly slapped him. Malenko also connected with a snapmare, a few kicks and a scoopslam led to a two-count. Malenko then scored with an elbow to the forehead of Syxx, followed by a dropkick into Syxx' knee as he hung upside down from the turnbuckle. Malenko, at this point, went for the Texas Cloverleaf finisher, but Syxx countered with an eye gouge. Syxx went at Malenko with his traditional leg attack. In fact, Syxx might have nailed a field goal with Malenko's ribs. Also from the wild-haired martial arts master: A snapmare and power leg drop that led to a two-count. Syxx went for the sleeper hold at 6:05, but it was immediately broken by Malenko. He tried it again, and it too was unsuccessful; Malenko answered with a side-suplex. Syxx' gameplan also included a double knife-edge chop, a perfect elbowdrop at the eight-minute mark as Malenko's head hung over the apron of the ring, a brainbuster and a flying legdrop off the top rope.

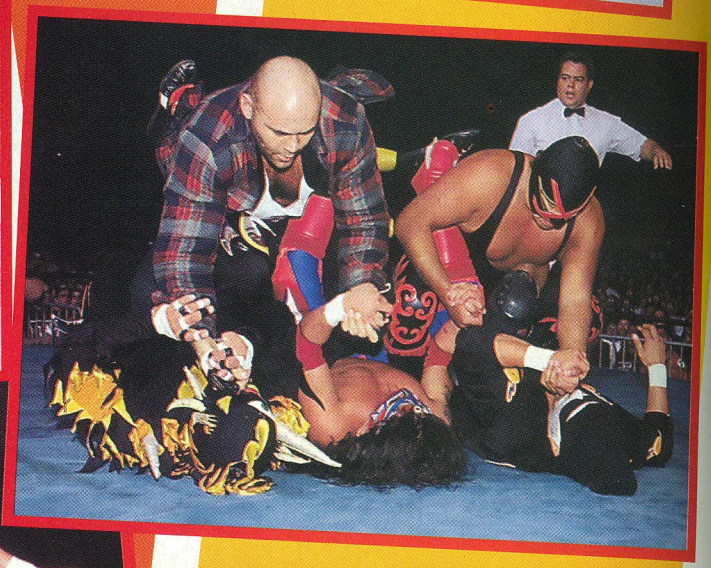
THE WINNER: SYXX (12:05)









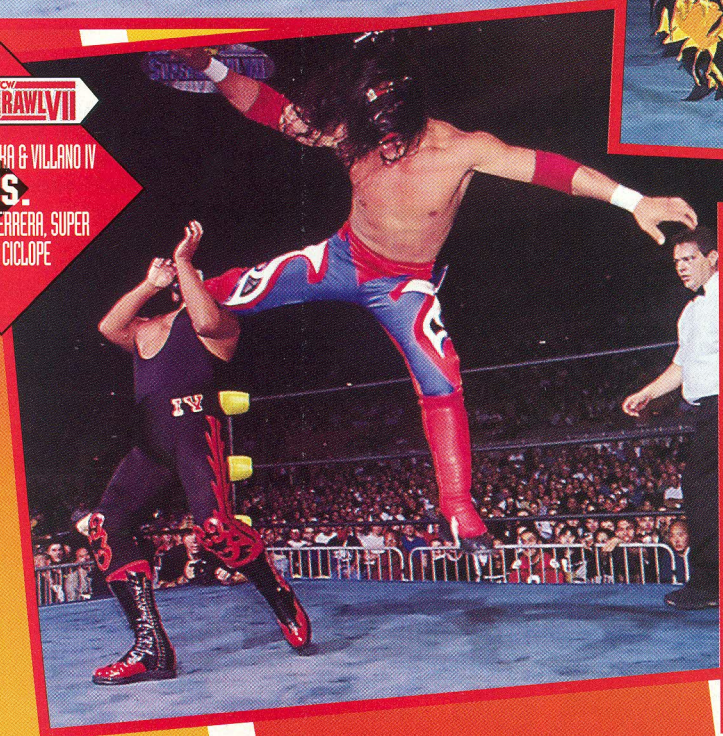


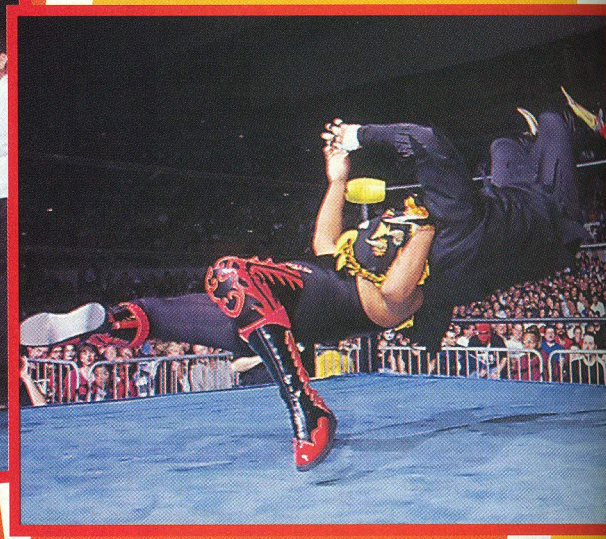
WCW SUPERBRAWL VII

KONAN, LA PARKA & VILLANO IV

VS.

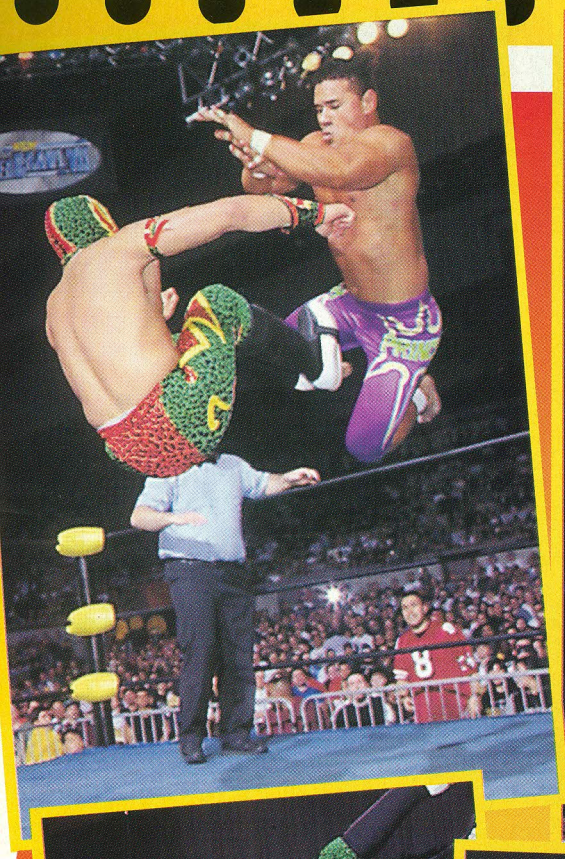
JUVENTUD GUERRERA, SUPER CALO & CICLOPE

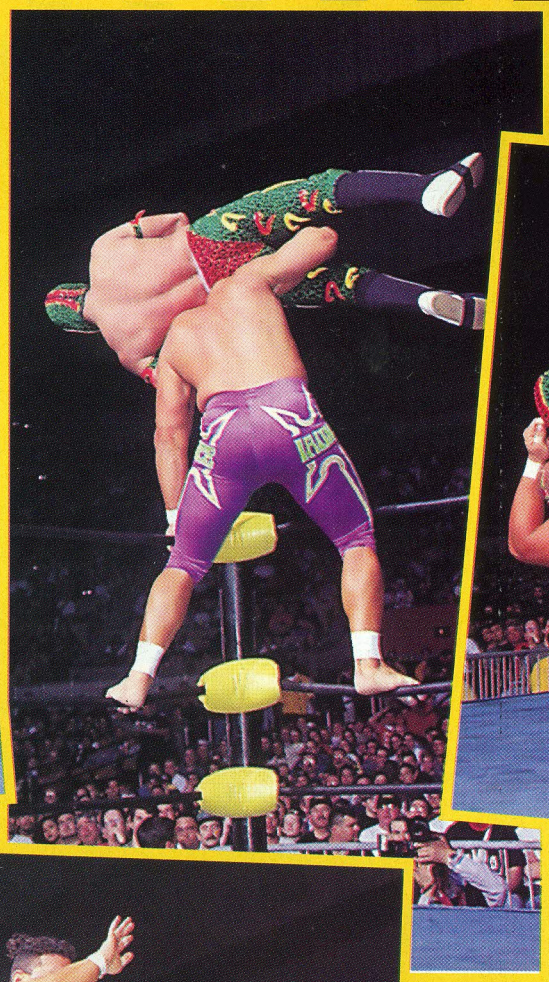


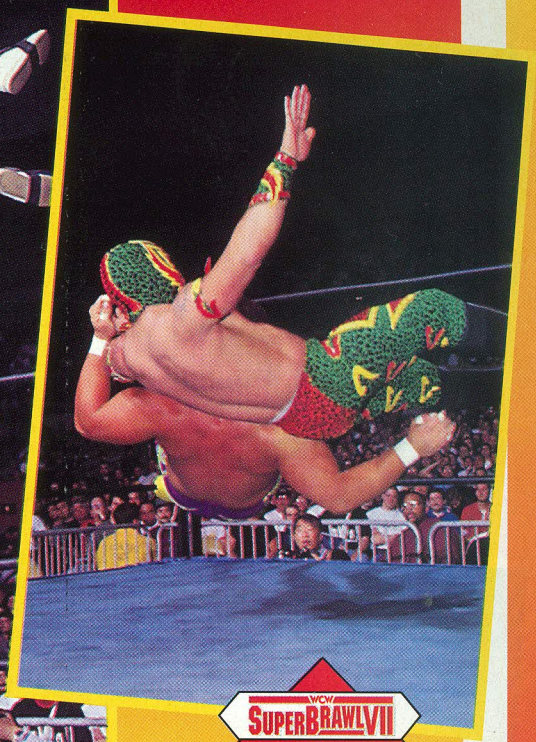


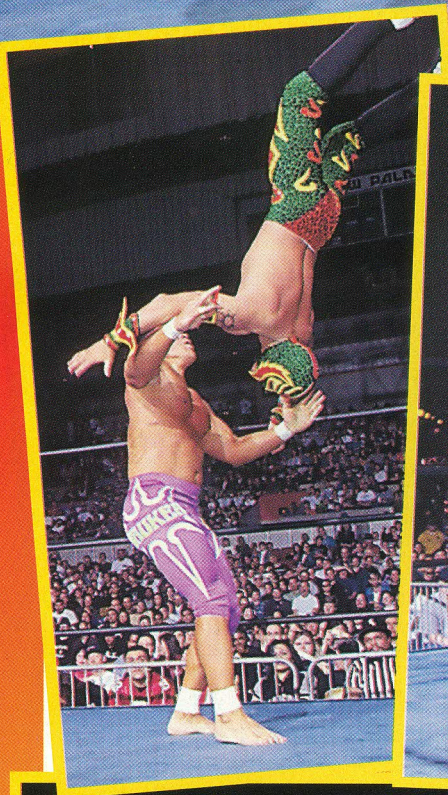
There was as much excitement during the Mexican six-man marathon as a fall Sunday in San Francisco with Montana at the helm. Or Young. Or Elvis. But at SuperBrawl, the combatants were Konan, La Parka and Villano IV on one side, Super Calo, Juventud Guerrera and Ciclope on the other. There were countless high-risk moves and plenty of death-defying acts. These six superstars make the high-rope act at the circus look like a walk through the park. There were numerous huracanranas, suplexes, among other maneuvers. And, of course the action was just as crazy when the fray spilled outside the squared-circle.

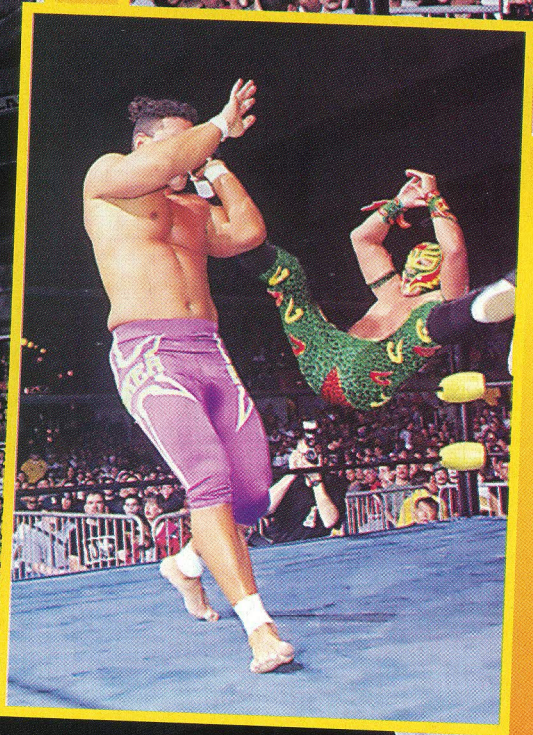
THE WINNER: KONAN, LA PARKA, VILLANO IV (9:54).

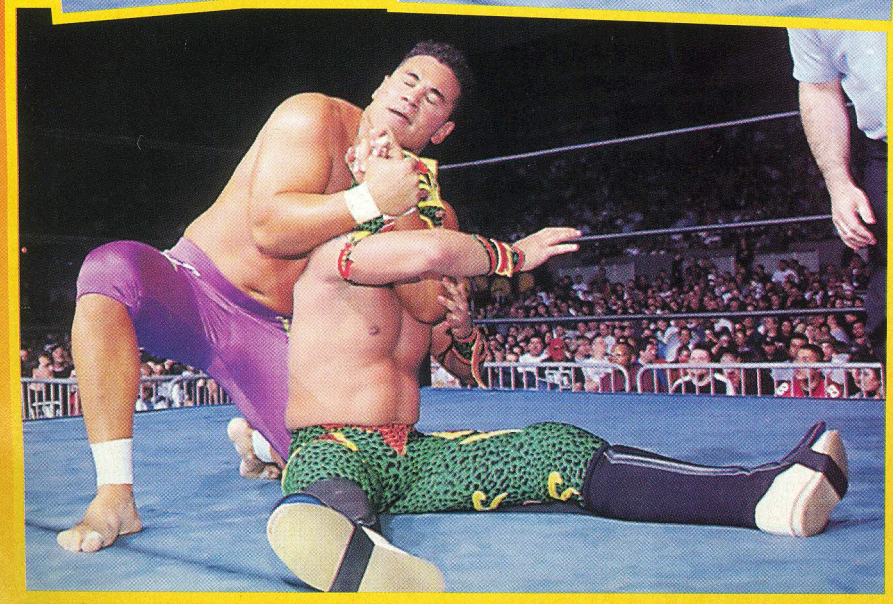












WCW SuperBrawl VII

PRINCE IAUKEA vs. REY MYSTERIO Jr.

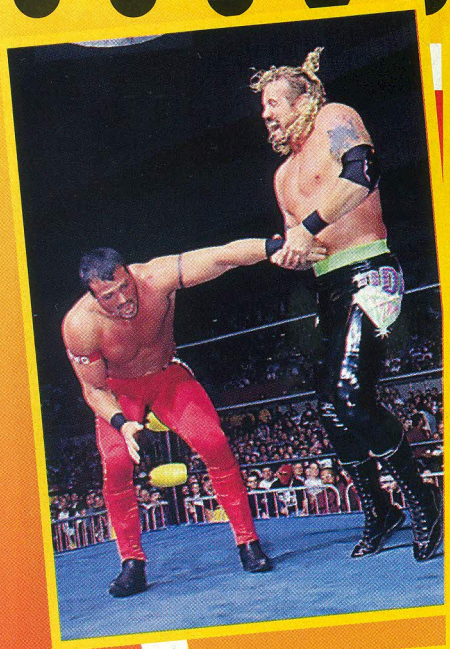
WCW WORLD TELEVISION TITLE

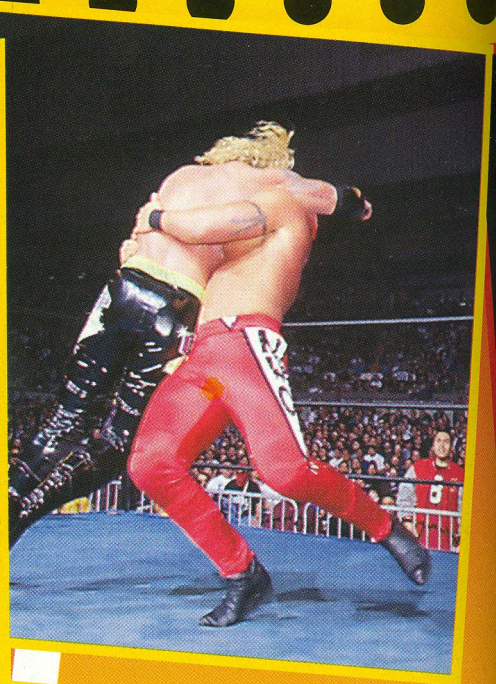
Prince Iaukea's TV Title reign was supposed to come to an end at SuperBrawl. His shocking championship win over Lord Steven Regal was to be short-lived. Rey Mysterio, Jr., was to win the gold in San Francisco.

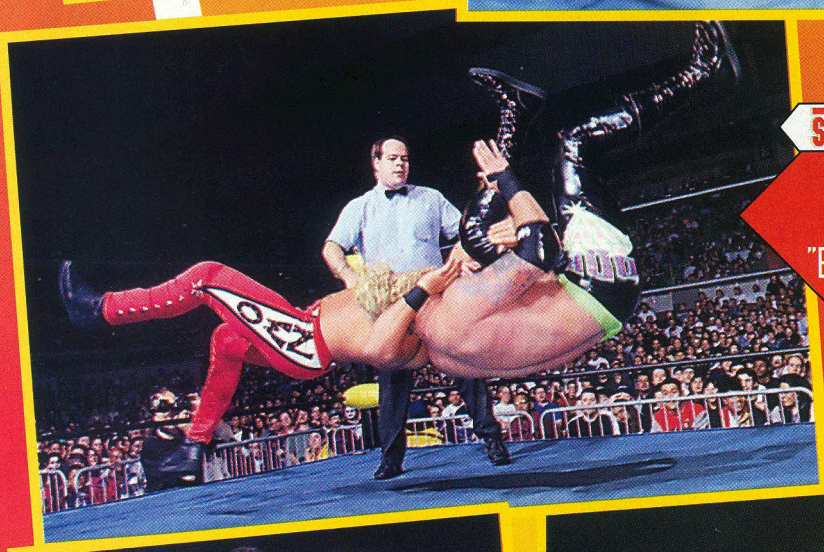
However, no one informed Iaukea that he couldn't beat Mysterio. And, when the final bell rang, Iaukea was still dancing with gold.

The two shook hands after the opening bell, then went at it full force. Mysterio landed a dropkick. Iaukea responded with a standing sidekick. Iaukea connected on a few chops outside the ring, then at the 2:10 mark, nailed Mysterio with a cross bodyblock off the top rope to the floor. Iaukea's attack also included a legdrop, vertical suplex and a press into a backbreaker. Mysterio's gameplan included an amazing reverse senton onto Iaukea on the floor, then some knife edge chops and a snapmare, followed by a back splash off a springboard. Mysterio also was able to ground Iaukea with a toe takedown. But it isn't too easy to slow the Prince. He executed a perfect fireman's carry, then, from the back, out walked Regal. And, of course, he had some things to say to Mysterio — in physical form. Regal pulled Mysterio off the apron, and Mysterio smacked his head face-first on the apron. "I don't believe it," WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay said. Regal then rolled Mysterio back into the ring and the three-count was easy for Iaukea.

THE WINNER: PRINCE IAUKEA. (8.56)

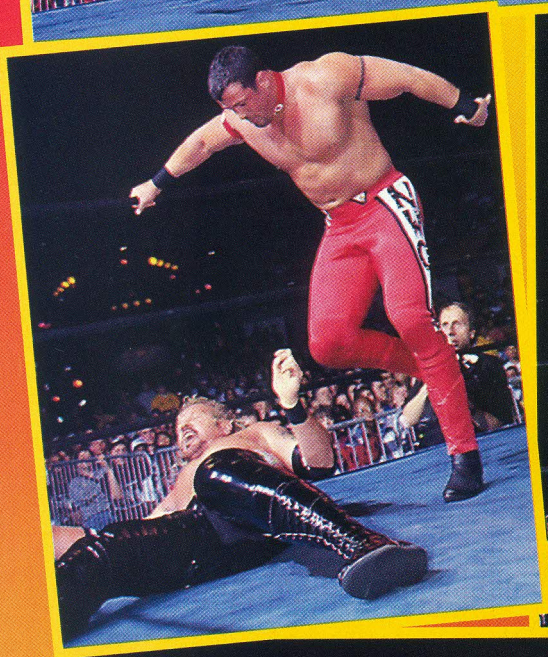


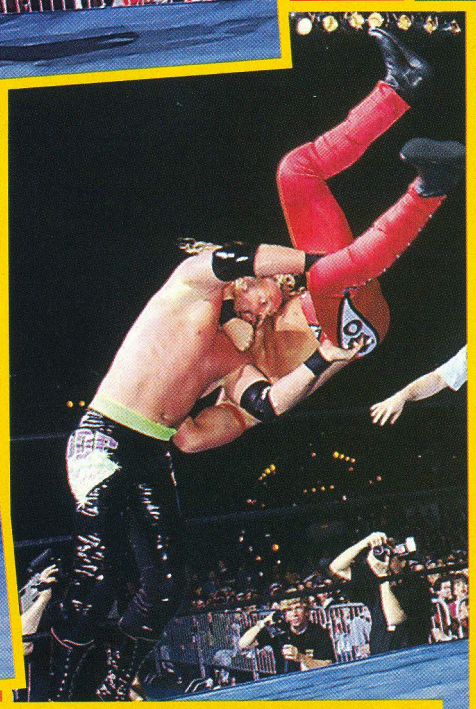


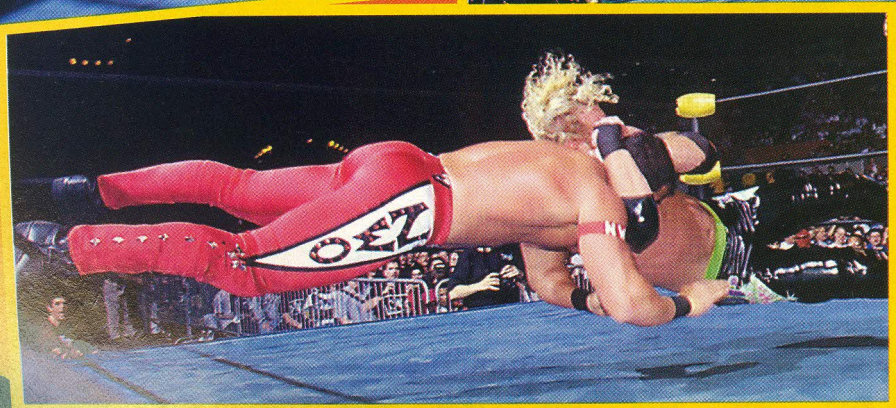


WCW SUPERBRAWL VII

DDP VS. "BUFF" BAGWELL

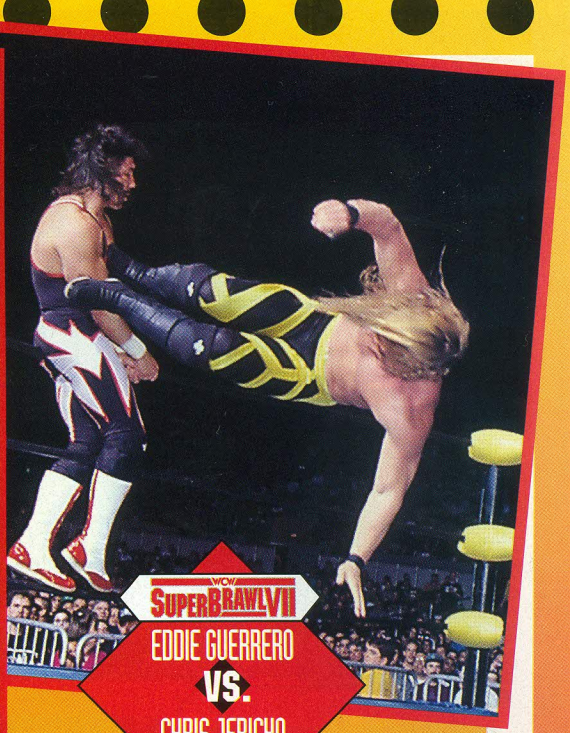






The most popular WCW superstar in San Francisco was, unquestionably, Diamond Dallas Page. The wild-haired, cigar-smoking, straight-shooting brawler battled Marcus "Buff" Bagwell, from The New World Order. Early on, DDP slapped Bagwell, then grabbed an edge with a drop-toehold; he then went to work on Bagwell's arm. DDP's attack also included a painful headlock and a neckbreaker. Bagwell responded with repeated kicks to DDP's back and stomach. "Eat your heart out Chippendales," broadcaster Bobby Heenan said of Bagwell's rip-roaring physique. A back elbowdrop by Bagwell led to a two-count. DDP answered with a small package. DDP ultimately nailed Bagwell with the Diamond Cutter, then scurried away as NWO members Syxx, Vincent, Nick Patrick and Michael Wallstreet came to the ring. "Diamond Dallas leaves a hero," broadcaster Tony Schiavone said.

THE WINNER: DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE by DQ. (9.46)



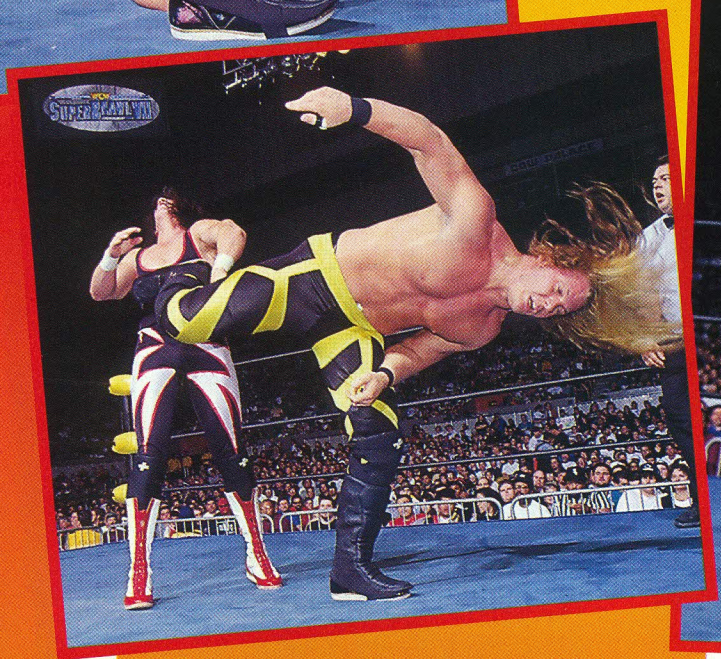
WCW SUPERBRAWL VII

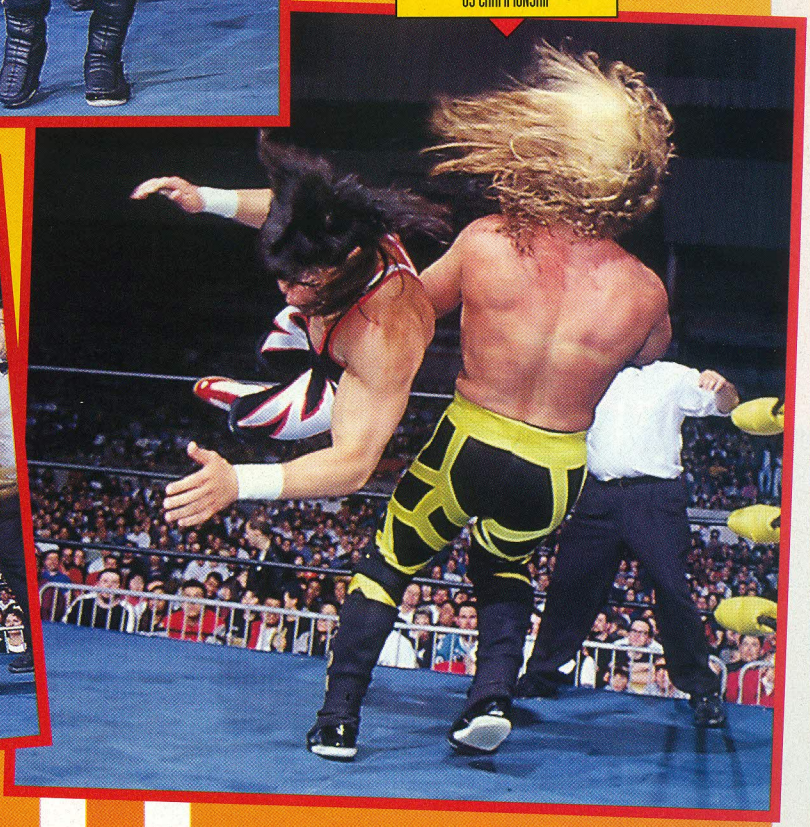
EDDIE GUERRERO

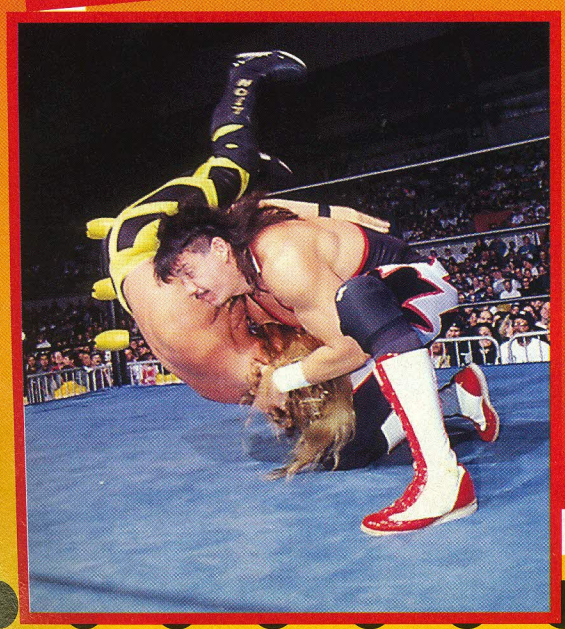
VS.

CHRIS JERICHO

US CHAMPIONSHIP

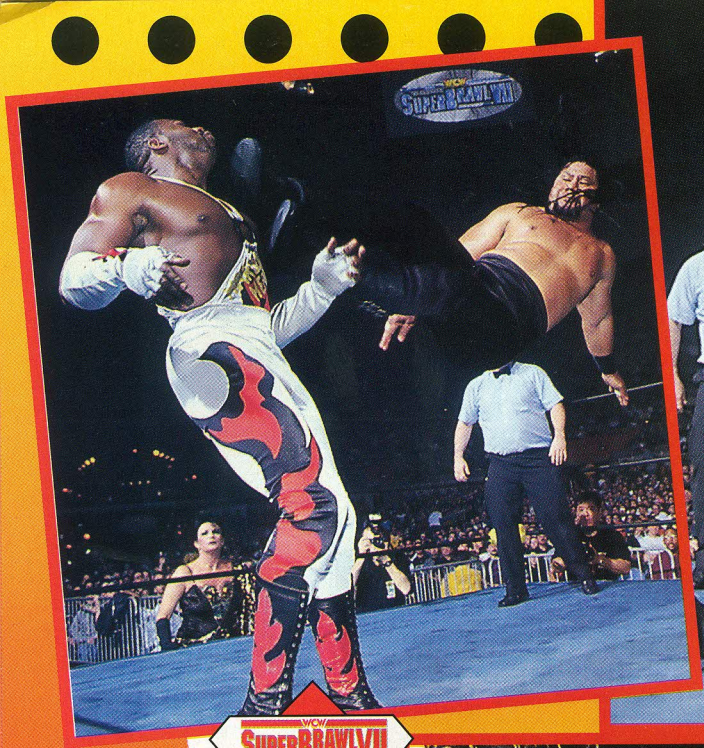


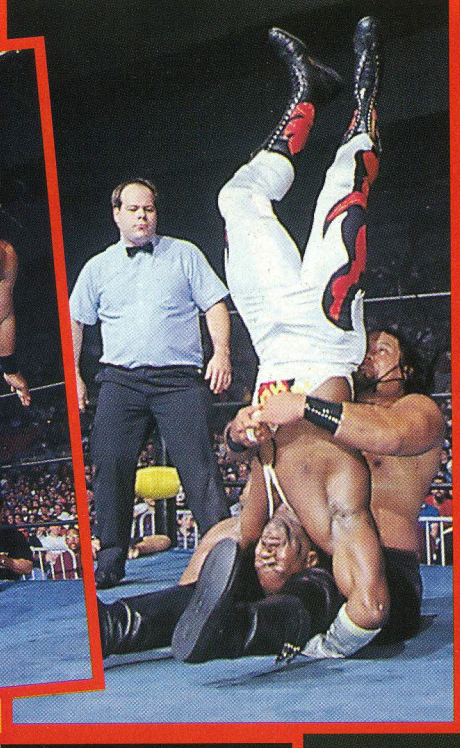


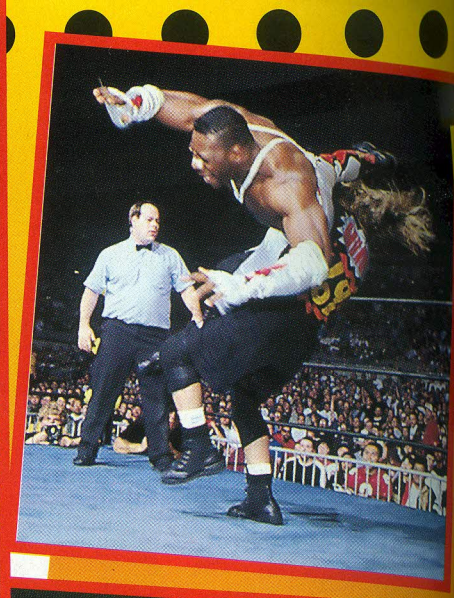


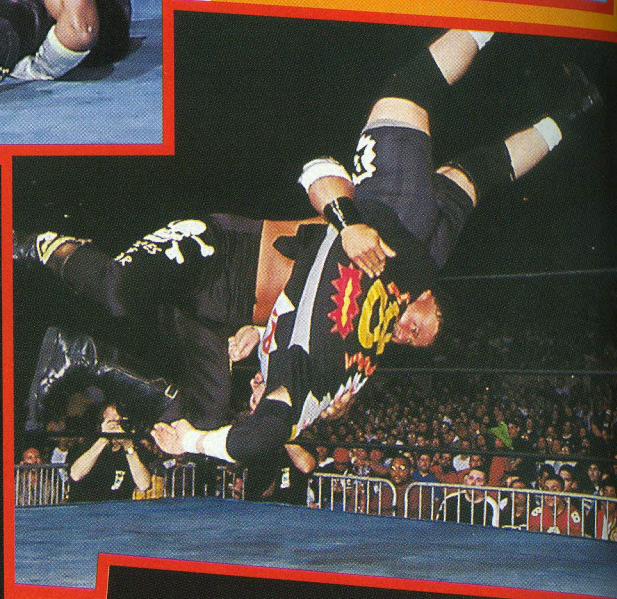
As the old saying goes, 'So Much For Friendship.' Eddie Guerrero and Chris Jericho put theirs on hold for, oh, about 15 minutes to battle it out. The match was a stellar scientific fight, with plenty of high-risk attacks used by both. Guerrero hit with an armdrag; Jericho answered with a snapmare. Guerrero then went for a leglock submission hold. He then nailed Jericho with a belly-to-back suplex. Jericho answered with a belly-to-back of his own. The Canadian sensation then used an abdominal stretch, followed by a backslide, suplex and armdrag, among other things. Jericho dominated the majority of the match, and even included a Boston Crab in his attack. Guerrero scored several highlight reel points for an impressive brainbuster. Jericho countered with a belly-to-back and belly-to-belly suplex. He then connected with a springboard dropkick off the top rope into a splash on the ground. Jericho recorded a two-count after a powerslam. Guerrero, though, was the one who ultimately nailed the three-count with a backslide win. "He earned the win tonight," Schiavone said.

THE WINNER: EDDIE GUERRERO (12:03).

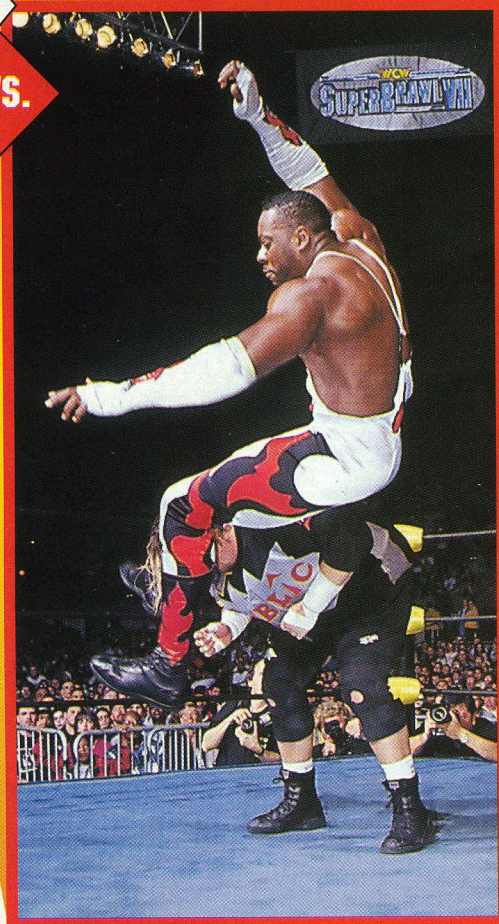


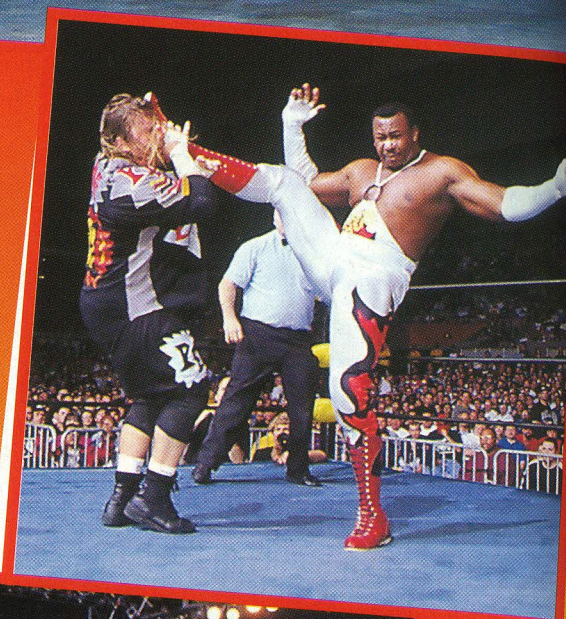






SUPER BRAWL VII
PUBLIC ENEMY VS. HARLEM HEAT VS. THE FACES OF FEAR

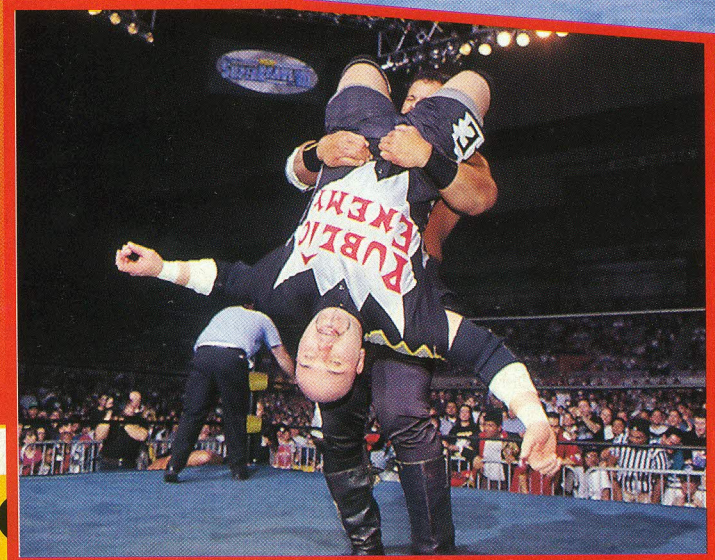


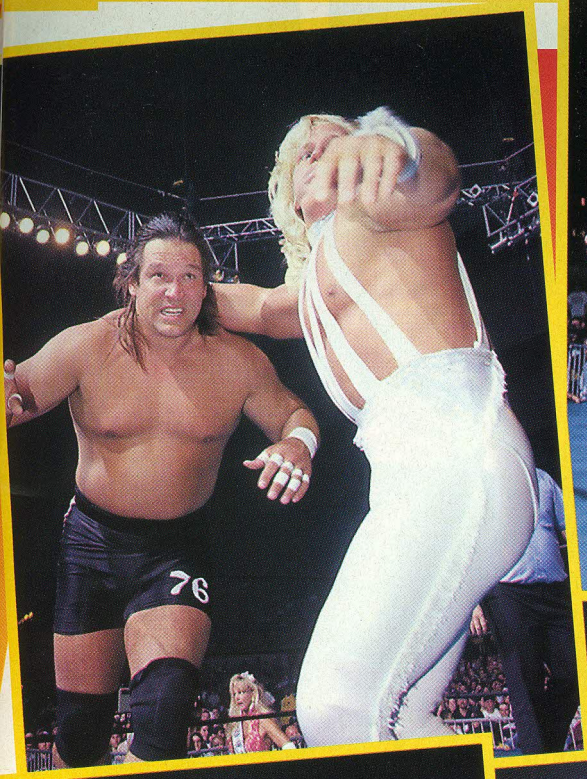


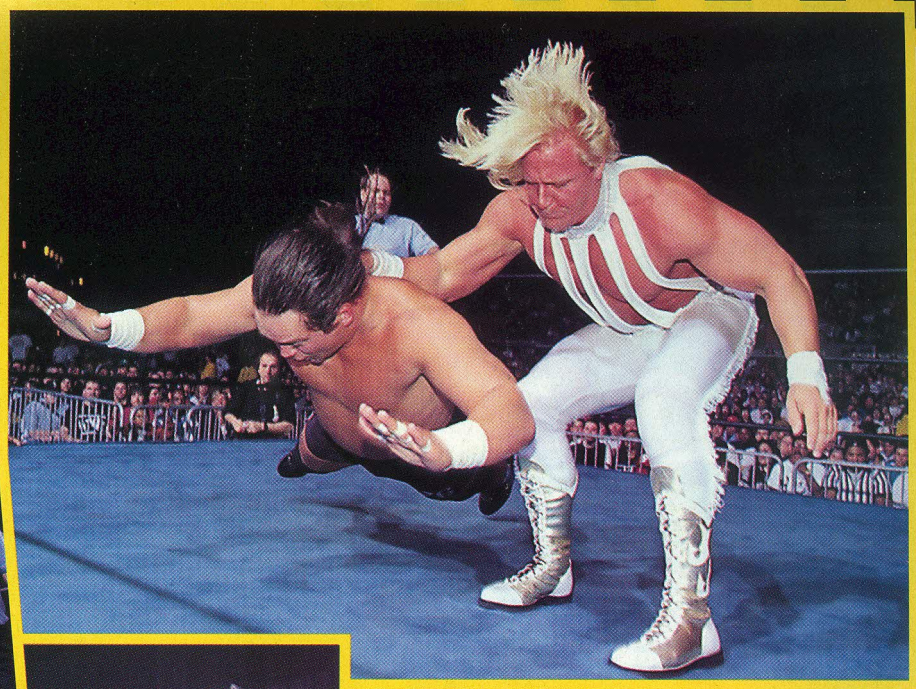
They were the smallest of the three teams and the one with the smallest chance of winning — at least that was pre-match, according to the so-called "experts." However, Public Enemy used a perfect gameplan and, thus, emerged victorious from a three-team free-for-all. The Barbarian gave The Faces of Fear an early edge, with a powerslam of PE's Rocco Rock, who actually shaved his hair for the match. Yep, Rocco was sporting the Michael Jordan 'do. Johnny Grunge went after both members of Harlem Heat, but was nailed with Stevie Ray's boot-to-the-face, then a punch. Booker T., then scored with the Harlem Scissor Kick. The Barbarian continued his impressive showing with a belly-to-belly overhead suplex on Booker T. He then hit a big clothesline.

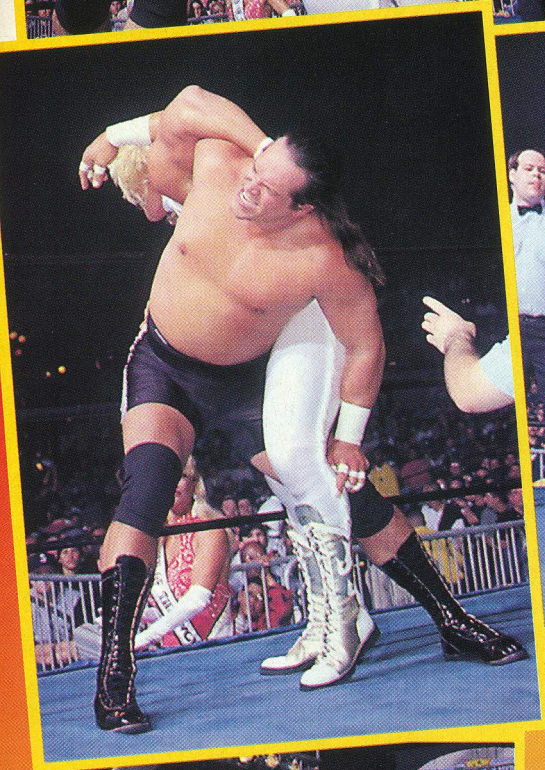
Meng delivered a piledriver on Booker T. Meng and The Barbarian then combined for the double headbutt on Booker T. The South Pacific monsters then landed a back-bodydrop into a powerbomb on Booker T. Public Enemy ultimately pinned The Faces of Fear for the "upset," Schiavone said.

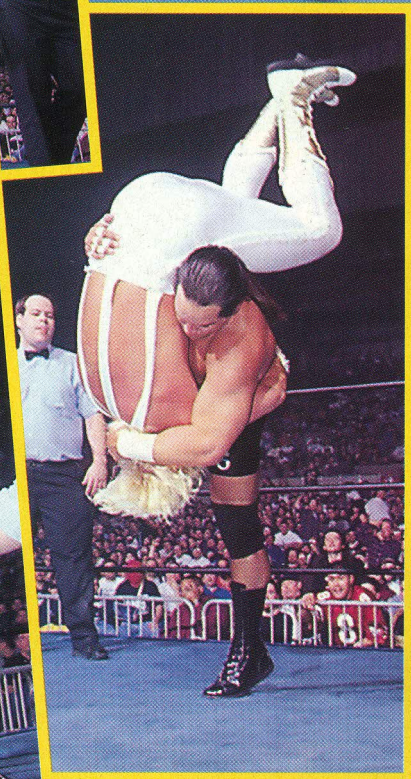
THE WINNERS: PUBLIC ENEMY (7:45).

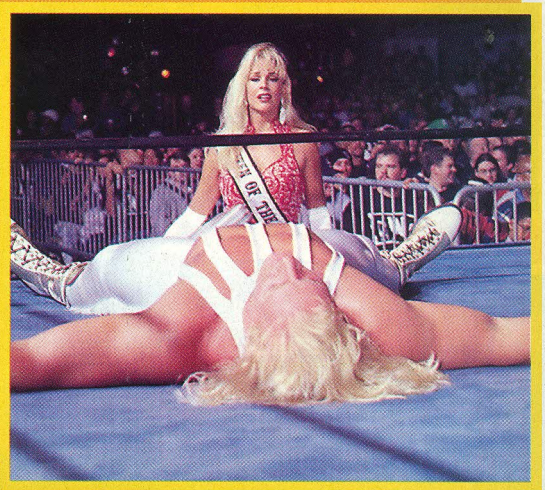


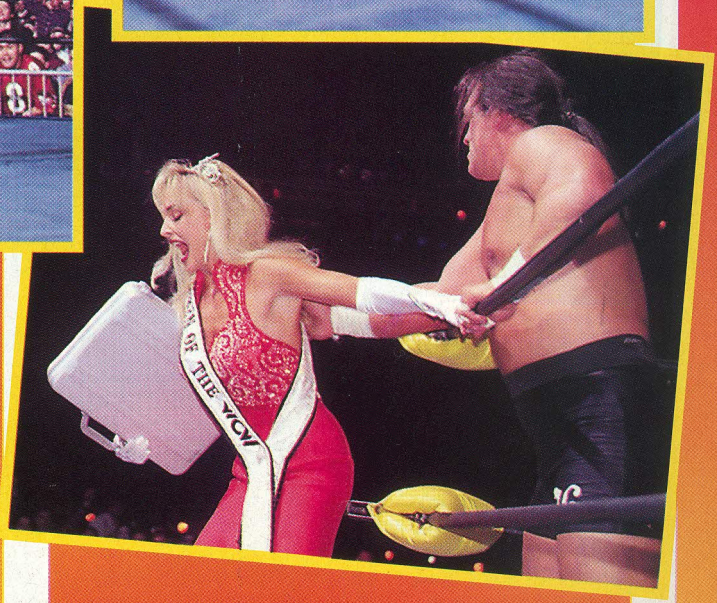


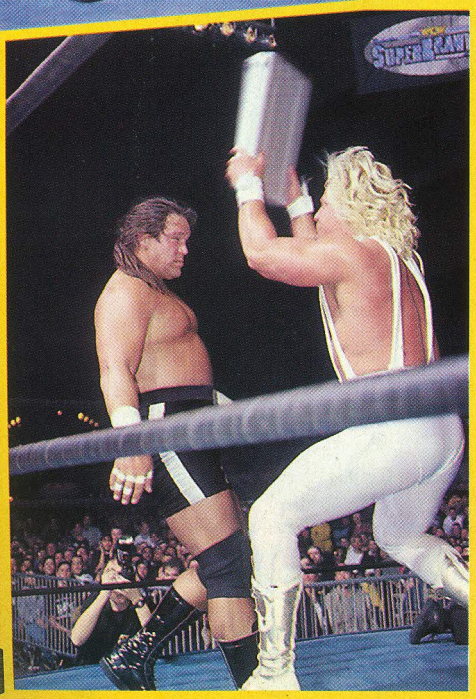












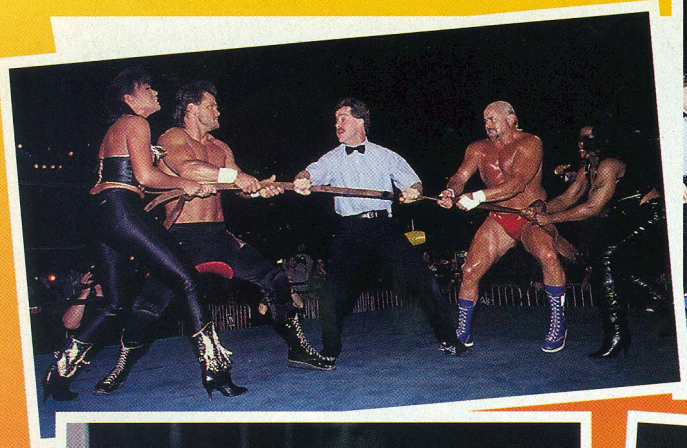
WCW SUPERBRAWL VII

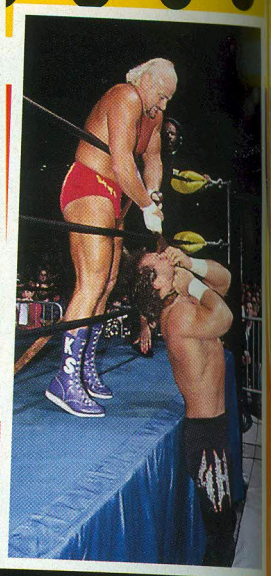
STEVE McMICHAEL VS. JEFF JARRETT

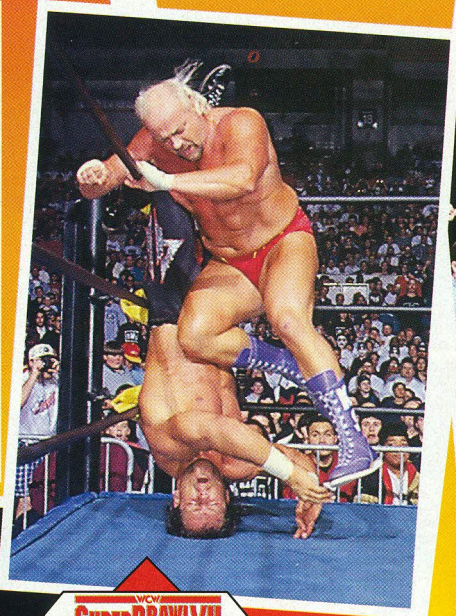
"This is big."

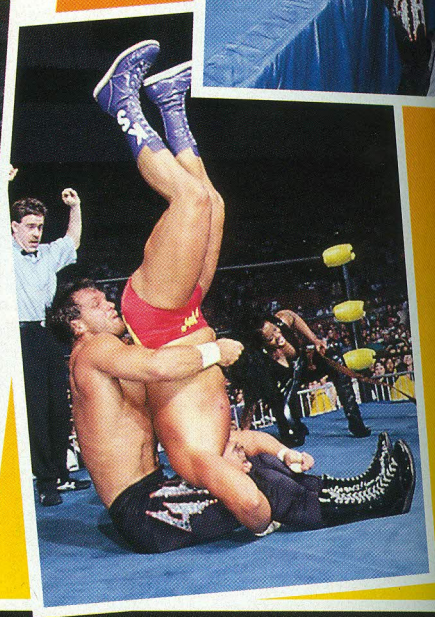
Those are the words Dusty Rhodes used to describe the Steve McMichael-Jeff Jarrett fight that, if won by Jarrett, would grant him his much-anticipated slot among The Four Horsemen. McMichael started strong, connecting with a powerslam, then shoulderblocks to Jarrett's knees. Jarrett regrouped and struck with an abdominal stretch. Back on offense, McMichael hit a powerslam, then connected with a few punches. The battle continued repeatedly outside the ring, then, at 5:30, Jarrett applied the Sleeper, though it didn't last long. McMichael was, when the final bell rang, in la-la land, courtesy of the Halliburton briefcase that Debra threw into the ring. "I smell divorce," broadcaster Bobby Heenan said.

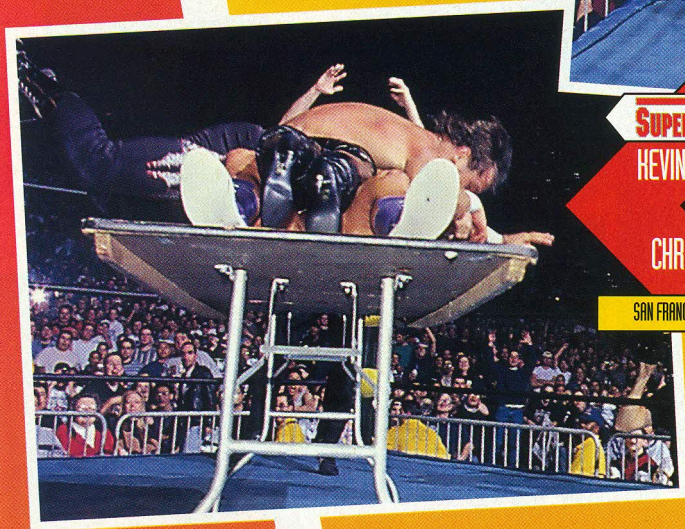
THE WINNER: JEFF JARRETT (8:12).







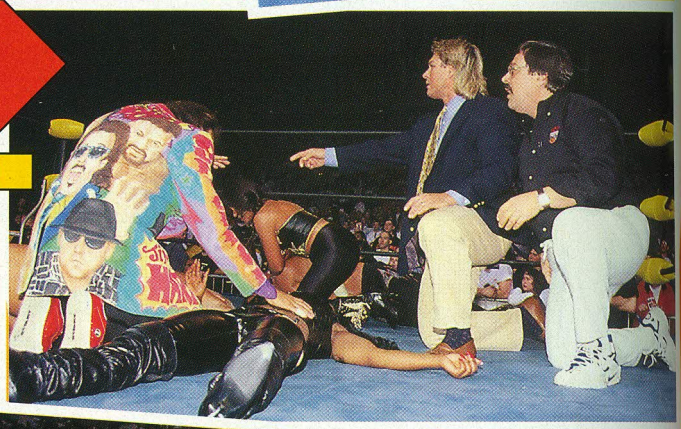


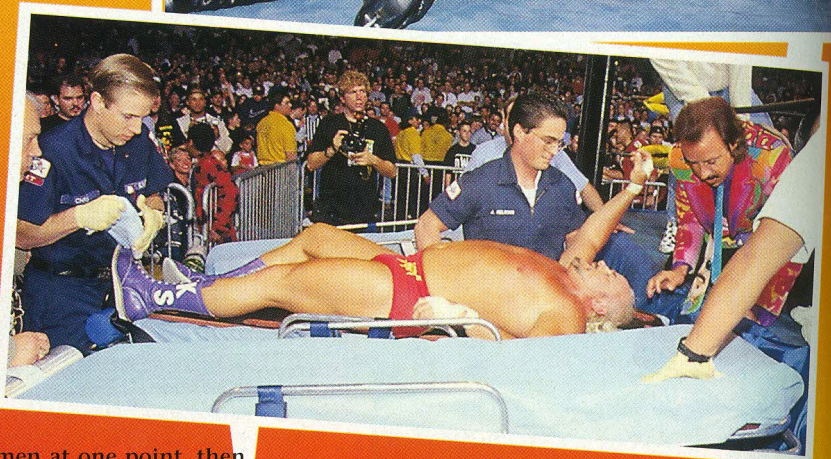


WCW SuperBrawl VII

KEVIN SULLIVAN vs. CHRIS BENOIT

SAN FRANCISCO DEATH MATCH

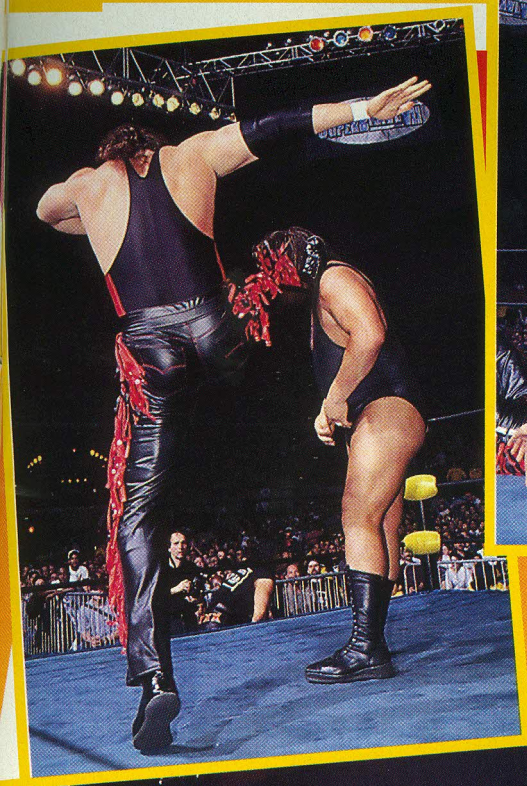


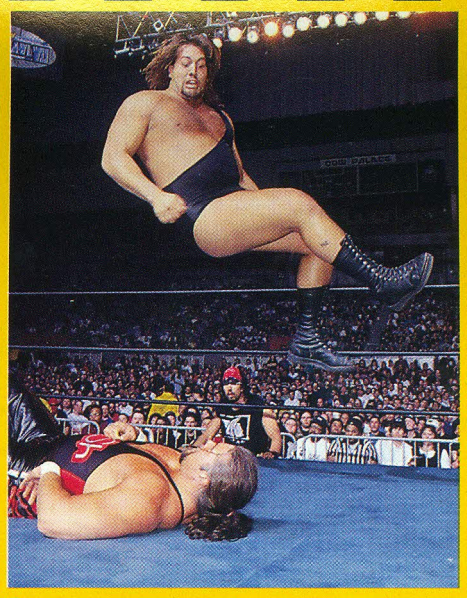


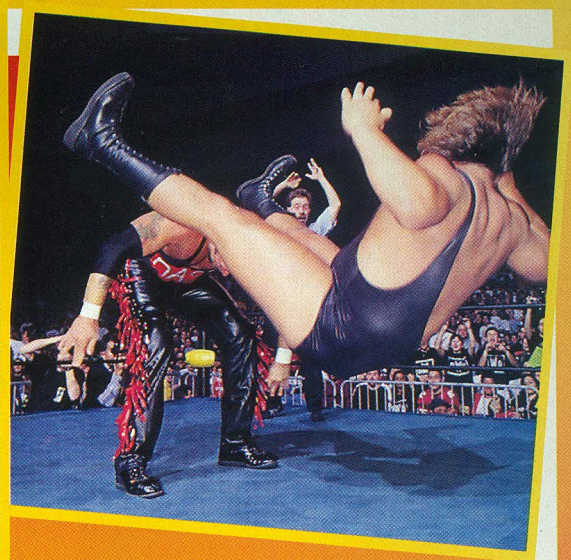
"All hell has broken loose."

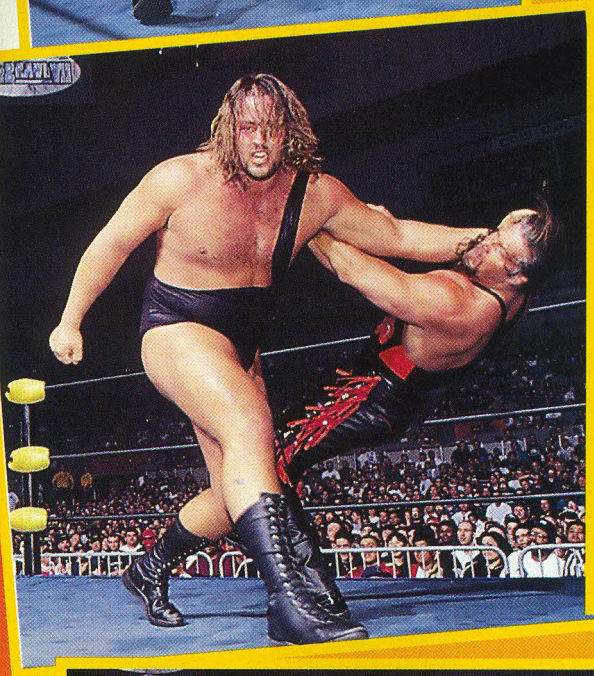
The hatred that stews between "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan and "Canadian Crippler" Chris Benoit almost pales in comparison to that between Woman and Jacquelyn. After seeing Woman and Jacquelyn in action in San Francisco, one can only imagine the two of them fighting for the same item at Bloomies. The dress of sorts in San Francisco was men. Their men. Woman did all she could to impress Benoit; Jacquelyn wanted to show Sullivan she was "The Stuff." The result: Chaos. The women, tied together by a leather strap, went at it with venom. Meanwhile, Benoit delivered a series of chops, headbutts and a powerslam. Sullivan answered with a slam off the top rope, then a chicken-wing suplex.

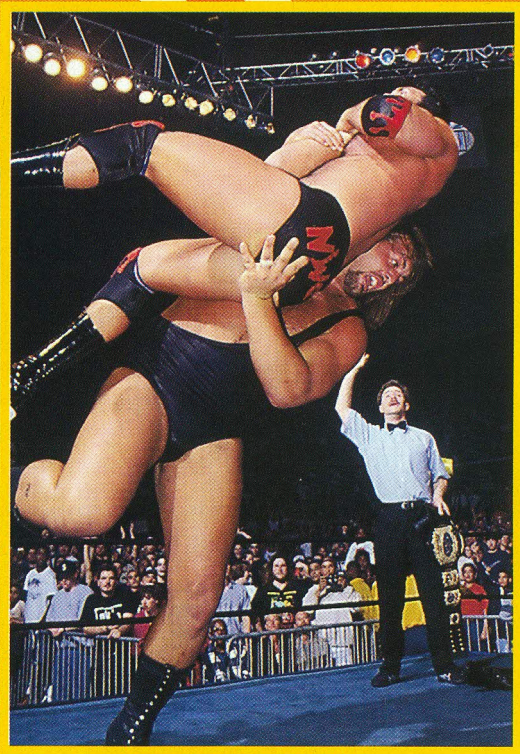
The women used their strap to clothesline the men at one point, then went back to beating one another. "Don't turn your back on a woman with a strap," Tony Schiavone said. At the four-minute mark, Sullivan and Benoit made their way into stands, as usual. "You're getting double your money here," Schiavone said in reference to the fact two fights were happening at once. Back in the ring at the 6:40 mark, Sullivan scored with the Tree of Woe, followed by his jumping stomp. Nancy whips Kevin allowing Benoit to kick him and deliver a piledriver. Ultimately, it was a table that stopped the war. Benoit was about to leap onto Sullivan, on the table. However, before he could launch himself, Jacquelyn jumped on the table as well to protect her man. Still, Benoit jumped. The table did not — amazingly — give way!! "We have seen it all," Schiavone said. The three had to be carried away on stretchers. "We have bodies everywhere," Schiavone said. THE WINNER: CHRIS BENOIT (8.35)









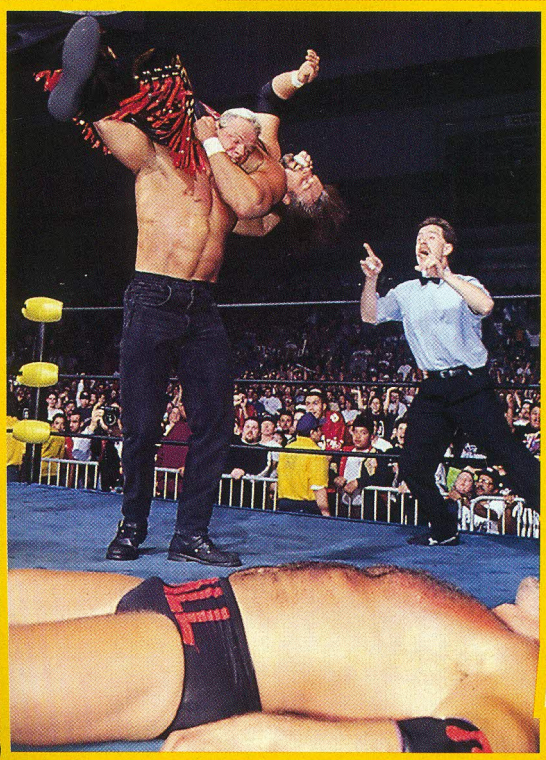


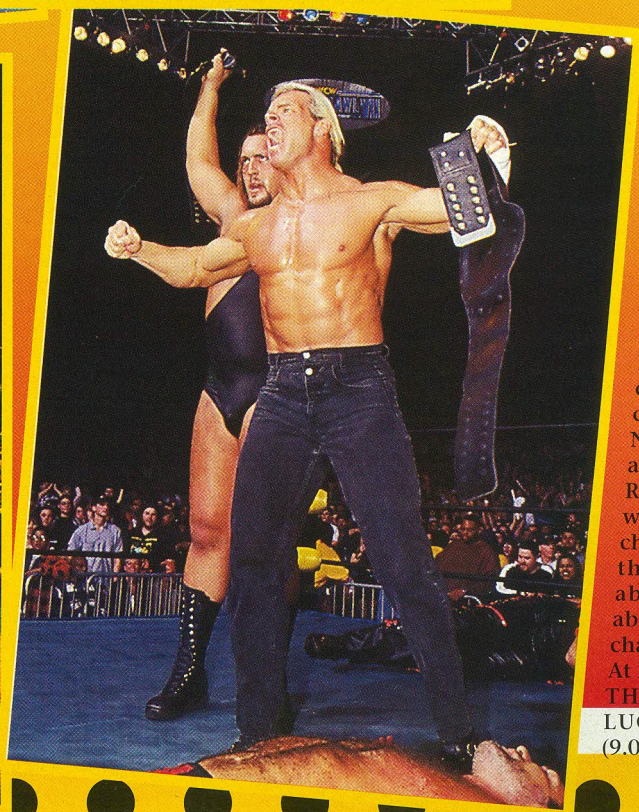
WCW SuperBrawl VII

THE OUTSIDERS VS. THE GIANT

WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

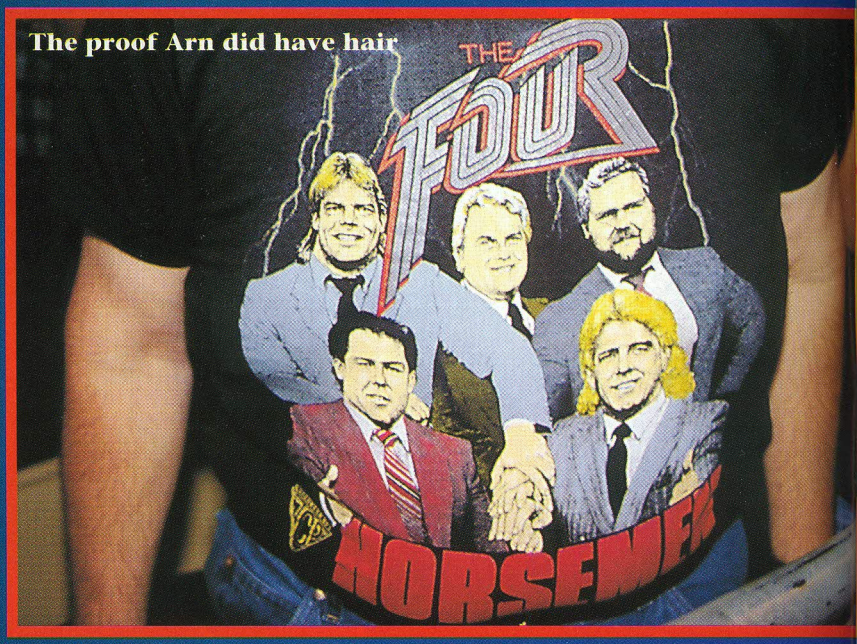
Scott Hall attacked The Giant like a pitbull, connecting with kicks, punches and chops. But The Giant was quick to answer with a vicious reverse knife edge of his own. Then, in typical NWO fashion, Hall spit in The Giant's face. "Shades of Roberto Alomar," Heenan said. The Giant dropkicked Nash outside the ring, then rammed his shoulder into the guardrail. The Outsiders responded with a bulldog by Hall that led to a two-count by Nash. The Giant battled valiantly, defying "incredible odds," Schiavone said. Nash dropped on The Giant as he hung over the middle rope. Hall continued the attack with slaps and punches. Nash scored with a powerbomb at about 7:30. Enter Lex Luger, but not before throwing aside, literally, Eric Bischoff. Luger connected with clotheslines on Hall, Nash and Syxx. Luger applied The Torture Racks to Nash at 9:01, while The Giant chokeslammed Hall after the match. "No doubt about it. No doubt about it. There are new champions," Heenan said. At least for the time being. THE WINNERS: LEX LUGER and THE GIANT. (9.05)



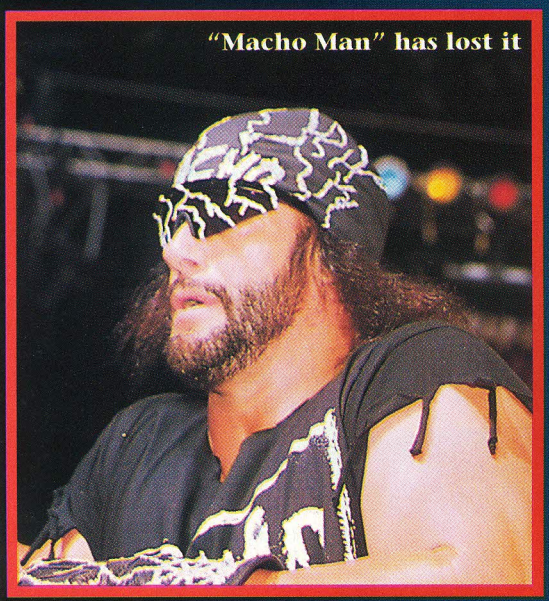


BRAIN REACTION

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!



The proof Arn did have hair


"Macho Man" has lost it

Do you remember "Macho Man" Randy Savage's unexpected "Sit-in" a few months back on Monday Nitro? I do, quite vividly. I remember where I was, what I was doing and — to this day — still recall what I was thinking on Jan. 20, 1997, the day, er, night Savage snapped. Let's face facts, Savage has always been a few sandwiches short of a picnic, if you know what I mean. Savage makes Forrest Gump look like Albert Einstein. That said, it shouldn't have come as a surprise — at least not much of a surprise — that Savage interrupted a live telecast from a soldout United Center in downtown Chicago, Ill. Savage manhandled Chavo Guerrero, Jr., Maxx and The Donut Maker, Doug Dellinger, that evening in a show of ... courage and force, for lack of better words. Anyway, I was in the Chicago Blackhawks locker room at the time, taking some slapshots against some lowly working-stiff when I heard a load of commotion in the back. I dropped my stick and gloves and walked over to a TV monitor. Savage on his chair in the center of the ring, waiting.

That's when I knew he had completely snapped!

Go back and look at the video tape of that evening. You will see, without a doubt, that the man in black and white was not — I repeat, was NOT — the same man who wrestled "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan about three months earlier in the main event of Slim Jim's Halloween Havoc.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage has lost it! Without a doubt.

Now he's a member of Hogan's band of losers, aka, The New World Order. Is it a shocking turn for Savage? You bet. Does it surprise me? No way. Savage has always been the renegade of pro wrestling. Savage and I have never really seen eye-to-eye. Why? Because we rarely agree on things. For instance, I would say, "Did you read my COLUMN in WCW Magazine?" and he would respond, "Do you write a STORY for WCW's Reading Literature?" Randy just isn't all there. Never has been, obviously never will be.

Randy is now NWO, no doubt a "Lifer" aboard the Black & White Express. Good, I say. I also say to Randy: Watch out, because Diamond Dallas Page is gonna give you a beating that your mommy and daddy should have given you years ago. I can't believe I was once associated with your dad, Angelo Poffo, and this is how you turned out. You are — as DDP would say, and I hope plasters on your Slim Jim-eating face — a BIG ZERO.

Let's move on.

This month's column is gonna be a bit different, as you can tell by the amount of space I dedicated to Savage. I spent time in March with my dear, close, personal, longtime friend Mr. Sonny Onoo-sahn ... and I am pleased to offer some insight into the Japanese mind. Mr. Onoo-sahn is, by the way, the only Oriental on TV on a regular basis in this country. It's true. Name anyone else? Didn't think you could. Personally, I think Mr. Onoo-sahn represents the hallmark of the Japanese, er, Asian citizen: He is rich, good-looking and smart. Plus, he obviously is a super businessman. Bottom line, Mr. Onoo-sahn represents all that is good with Japanese-Americans.

"The reason the Japanese are far-superior to Americans is: Our work-ethic, our will to achieve at whatever the cost," Mr. Onoo-sahn said. "Our children go to school 11 months of the year, even on Saturdays."

Let's look at Mr. Onoo-sahn ... aside from being one of this sport's greatest managers, he's a master of kangi (brush writing).

I had to ask Mr. Onoo-sahn about the cheap, $10 Fuji throw-away cameras that he often brings, uses and gives-away at match. Very simple," Onoo said. "They are better, cheaper, and the pictures are far superior to any $500 America-made cameras."

Mr. Onoo-sahn also was gracious enough to share a little scoop with me. He reports that a Women's Cruiserweight Tournament is forthcoming. (By the time you read this, plans might have already been announced ... just remember you heard, er, read it here FIRST!) Names, times and locations were not available; however, this is what Mr. Onoo-sahn

had to say about Japan's female cruiserweights: "They are like Rey Mysterio, Jr., but a lot tougher and much prettier ... hey, at least they don't need a mask."

Moving swiftly on.

WCW merchandise is obviously made of the highest quality materials. Consider this. In the front row of the recent Monday Nitro from The Omni, a fan was wearing a Four Horseman T-shirt that was so old, Arn Anderson had hair and JJ Dillon weighed under 300-pounds.

Am I the only one who is amazed by Mexican sensation Super Calo? Here's a guy who flies around the ring with skill and grace of a gymnast, and, he never loses his hat? Shoot, "Mean" Gene Okerlund walks to the concession stand and his hair falls off.

Another Mexican munchkin I want to address is Juventud Guerrera. This Mexican jumping bean is, in my opinion, the most under-rated wrestler in WCW. He does as many aerial moves as Rey Mysterio, Jr., often more, yet never receives his due respect. What's the problem? Better yet, who's the problem? Well, I'll give you a clue: if it looks like a burrito, smells like a burrito, feels like a burrito, it must be Eddie."

What gives with Rocco Rock's new 'do? Or the lack of? I've heard of "buttering up" to the WCW Executive Committee to get a title shot ... but "buttering up" to "Mean" Gene Okerlund? I think Rocco has gone through that table one too many times, to put it mildly.

"Hardbody" Harris will be in the Summer Olympics in the year 2000 ... first as a punching bag, then in the belly-flop competition.

Billy Kidman was, appropriately, a "walk-on" to the Debate Team in college. Who gets walked on more in WCW?

For those of you who couldn't make it down to Panama City, Fla., for the WCW Spring Break-out, I have a little behind-the-scenes dirt for you. There was a "Monday Nitro Tough Guy" contest on Sunday afternoon. Of course there were plenty of bartenders, bouncers and wanna-bes among the contestants. There also were fighters, freaks and some fraternity rats. Anyway, the winner was ripped like you wouldn't believe. The winner had shaggy black hair and a few tattoos. The contest ... well, it wasn't much of a contest. Congratulations, Jacquelyn. What's next, Mr. America? And if you don't think she'd win that too, why don't YOU tell her FACE-TO-FACE.

Overheard in a restaurant in San Francisco. "I'm going to get lucky here. Every chick is bored with dating a hardbody, they love chubby guys." Who made this statement? Johnny Grunge! And was he lucky? No way. Girls (sane ones that is), are as attracted to Johnny, as The Nasty Boys are to deodorant.

I really like Mortis, although it's kinda hard to have a normal conversation with him. His handler, James Vandenberg, is one righteous dude.

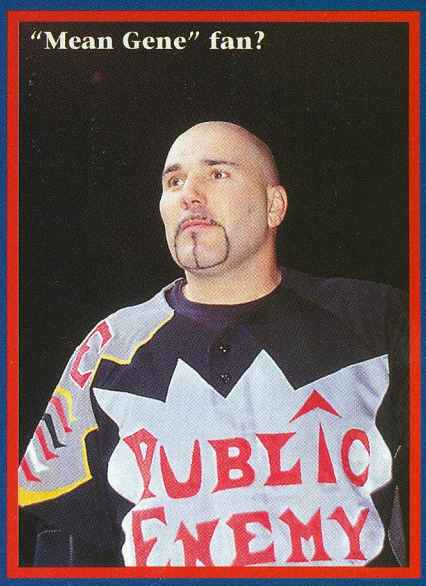
Is it too extreme of a measure to place a bounty on a person's head? OK, I'll offer $1 for Lee Marshall's torso.

How tough is it to fast for a day, or a week, or longer? Well, I'd rather starve than eat Hacksaw's Beef Jerky. Yep, the American jerk unveiled such a product, courtesy of Specialty Meats, Inc., of Titusville, Fla. Pass the Pepto. Also Jim Duggan is another one whose personal hygeine needs looking at. One night at Club La Vela in Panama City, he raised his arm for the thumbs up and hearty Hoooooo! and cleared the dance floor in record time. I was also told that every bug within a 100 yard radius died instantly.

Days before SuperBrawl, I thought I'd enjoy some peace and quiet in Wine Country ... you know, the Napa Valley. It was enjoyable, for the most part. Then, this frazzled female, at least I think she was a female, approached for an autograph. Then she wanted a second autograph. Then a third. Then a fourth. When she asked for her fifth, I knew something had to be done about this coo-coo. I tried to just walk away, but she wanted a picture with me. That's when I drew the line! Look, miss ... but she quickly interrupted me, "Don't be so formal; you, my dear, can call me Karen," she said, winking. OK, KAREN, GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE ... and that goes for all you other TV dinner-eating K-Mart shoppers. Hey, if you want someone to lech over, call Mike Tenay.

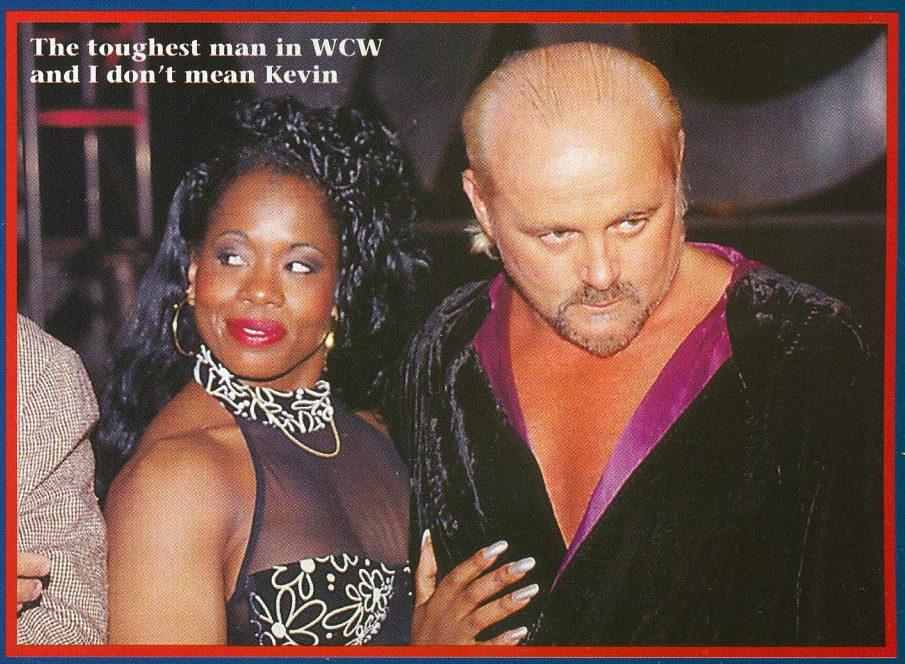
OK, that's it for this month, thankfully.

The Brain



"Mean Gene" fan?

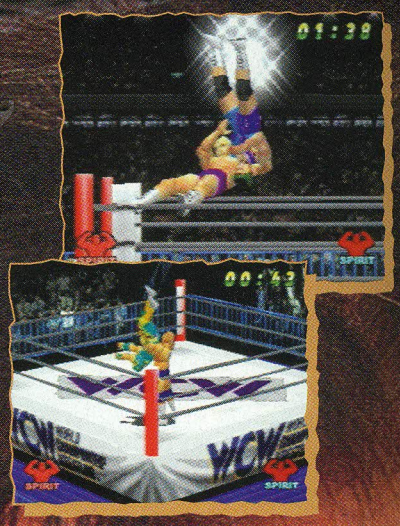
Juventud Burrito-breath


The toughest man in WCW and I don't mean Kevin

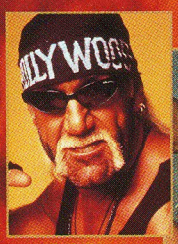
JJ
JEFF
jarrett

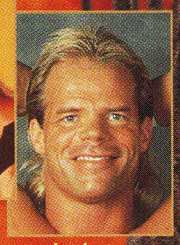
WCW
magazine

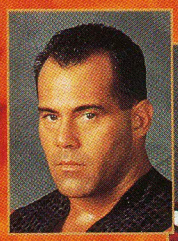
WCW™ VS THE WORLD

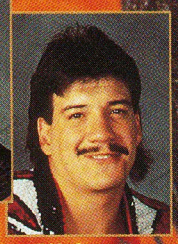


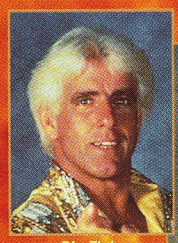
"...sets the standard for next generation wrestling games..." EGM '97

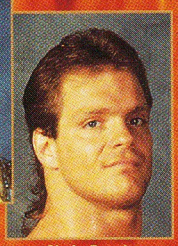

Hulk Hogan


Lex Luger


Dean Malenko


Eddy Guerrero


Ric Flair


Chris Benoit

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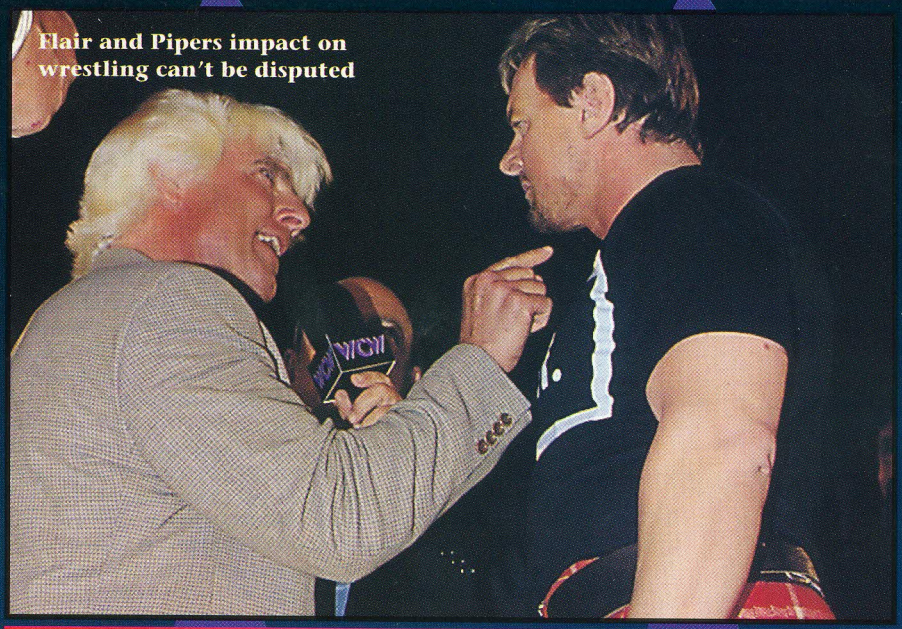


Flair and Pipers impact on wrestling can't be disputed

The Marshall Plan

By Lee Marshall

There are times when sports fans can be very difficult to please.

I've seen baseball fans cheer politely when the team's clean-up hitter rips a run-scoring single to left field. However, the fans say what they really wanted to see was a bottom-of-the-ninth, 450-foot, game-winning grand slam.

We've all seen football fans clap their hands when their team's kicker adds three-points with a 25-yard chip-shot field goal. At the same time, the fans make it clear that what they really wanted is: An All-Everything tailback rambling 90-yards for a spectacular, broken-field game-winning touchdown.

Hockey fans will applaud when their team's all-star winger contributes an assist. They'll also be quick to add that they were really hoping to see their home team superstar connect for a three-goal hat trick.

A similar fan reaction holds true in our sport of professional wrestling. The fans are demanding more and more high-risk maneuvers and finishing holds from their favorite mat stars. Those who support Diamond Dallas Page not only want the big man to win, but, these fans now want to see DDP catch his opponent with a devastating, teeth-jarring "Diamond Cutter." Hugh Morrus tips the scales at about 340-pounds, but he combines his size with exceptional, high-risk wrestling moves. The Dungeon of Doom's Laughing Man can pin most opponents for the 1-2-3; however, fans want to see Morrus climb the ropes, then flip himself backwards off the top rope onto the chest of his opponent. Morrus calls it his "No Laughing Matter" moonsault. The referee usually calls the paramedics for the fallen challenger. Let's face it, Eddie Guerrero, Rey Mysterio, Jr., and Dean Malenko are brilliant mat-wrestlers, but, fans would rather see them flying so high that Delta Airlines would give them frequent flier miles.

In these days of Frankensteiners, missile dropkicks, Diamond Cutters and frog-splashes, it's interesting to point out that two of wrestling's all-time greats continue to use their tried-and-true finishing moves. Whether you cheer for them, or not, no one can question or discount the impact "Nature Boy" Ric Flair and "Rowdy" Roddy Piper have had on our sport. At the same time, history is very clear when documenting the careers of the "Nature Boy" and The Rowdy Scot. Flair and Piper do not defeat their opponents with stunning finishing maneuvers. Rather, both Flair and Piper use their superior skills, ring savvy and stamina to defeat their opponents. Think about it.

When, if ever, did you see Ric Flair or "Rowdy" Roddy Piper win a match in under two minutes? It's just not their style. As every fan walking the earth knows, Ric Flair is the undisputed master of the "Figure-Four Leglock," while Piper has found renewed success with "The Sleeper." Piper's "Sleeper" and Flair's "Figure-Four" have something in common. Before they can be successfully applied and used to gain a victory, the opponent must be totally compromised. There's no high-risk, 20-foot leaps into the guard rails, nor are these moves done out of a somersault.

It's OK for wrestling fans to cheer, yell and stomp their feet when they see a brilliant, high-risk wrestling move. However, I hope these same fans, especially you younger fans, have a true appreciation for what you're seeing when Piper slaps on "The Sleeper" or when Flair executes a perfect "Figure-Four." It means they have totally outsmarted, outlasted and out-wrestled their opponents.

Look at the obvious. When Flair and Piper use their moves, they first need to totally exhaust and demoralize their opponents. Sure, I enjoy seeing a rapid-fire, high-risk match. At the same time, I also appreciate, respect and tip my hat to wrestlers like Flair and Piper. They have won thousands of matches more than they have lost and, in most cases, they did it the hard way. Over the years, these two people may not have won the hearts of wrestling fans around the world, but I suggest that they deserve your respect. If we continue to use the work ethic as a way by which we measure people, then Flair and Piper are at the top to the yard stick.

Now, a little something new. I've decided to end each column with some quick tid-bits of "incidental" information. I'm calling these sidebar facts, "Did You Know?" Here we go ...

- Diamond Dallas Page was a Junior College All-American basketball player.
- Meng not only speaks the language of his native Tonga, but also is fluent in English, Spanish and Japanese.
- WCW executive Gary Juster was born in Minneapolis and was delivered by one of the Twin City's most respected obstetricians: Ric Flair's father, Richard.
- "Mean" Gene Okerlund was once a disc-jockey in Omaha.
- Bobby "The Brain" Heenan has a Great Dane named Presley and a hamster named Achmed.
- "Rowdy" Roddy Piper's first professional wrestling match was against Curt Hennig's father, Larry "The Ax" Hennig. Piper lost.

TOO LEGIT TO QUIT

There's a gleam in his eye and a hop in his step — much more than normal, that is. "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan, a veteran of many-a mat war, has had a little extra fight, a tad more spunk, a renewed energy of late. Sure, Sullivan is still the same psychologically-deranged madman spearheading The Dungeon of Doom in its attack on the world; however, Sullivan is now more confident, more convinced he will come out on top. His drive to the top has only been slowed in recent months by his personal woes. But not anymore.

Ever since Jacquelyn literally jumped (over the guardrail and) onto the scene in WCW, there has been an ear-to-ear smile on Sullivan's often-sick face.

"She has given me the comfort I need and has re-focused me on wrestling," Sullivan said.

That still holds true today.

"Whatever it takes, I can do it; I can get the job done," said Jacquelyn, far-more than your traditional female valet. She certainly ain't no cutesy tag-along. "You had to be really tough where I'm from just to survive, and I did."

Jacquelyn spends at least five days a week in the gym, training two body parts per day. She's been on the same cycle for about 10 years.

"I love being in the gym; it's like my second home. Wherever you find a gym, you might find Jacquelyn," she said. "I try to eat the right food all the time, but, being on the road as much as I am, that can be tough. Still, I am one really-tough woman. Nancy walks around thinking she's so tough. Puh-lease ... don't make me laugh. She don't know what pain is. She don't know what work is. She don't know what I went through to get a body like this."

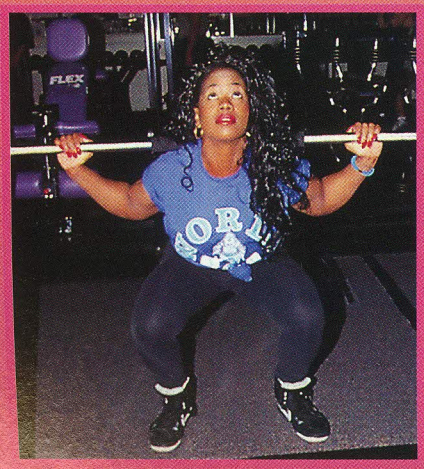
Jacquelyn's body-fat has to rank right up there with Lex Luger. There is muscle upon muscle upon muscle on this sexy superstar. Now you see why Sullivan is smiling.

"When Kevin needs me, I'm there.

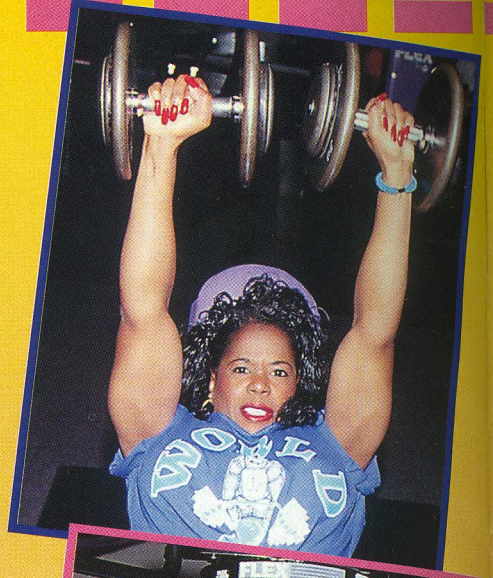
Jacquelyn is, arguably, the toughest person pound-for-pound in WCW ... and she isn't even a wrestler! At least as of press time. Jacquelyn's dominating ways have, shall we say, perturbed quite a few within WCW, male and female. So, there's no doubt she will be put to the test rather quickly. By someone, somewhere.

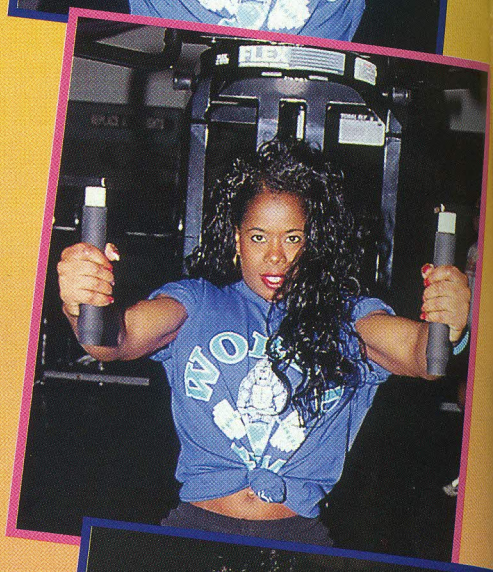
"When I was younger I used to watch wrestling all the time. Although I wasn't trained to be a wrestler, I'd pick up on the moves just from watching it on TV. Plus, the gymnasium I trained in back home had a ring in back, so I often tried things there," Jacquelyn said. "I trained to be a power lifter, then a bodybuilder. Now I just train to keep in shape. I train for myself, just to look good." (And, yes, she is one dedicated weight-lifter. WCW Magazine publisher Colin Bowman accompanied Jacquelyn to the gym recently for the photos you see with this story. He reports she spent more than two hours working out. She spent time lifting weights, running and swimming. And she regularly out-lifted several of the "ripped" male lifters who also were present that day, Bowman said.)

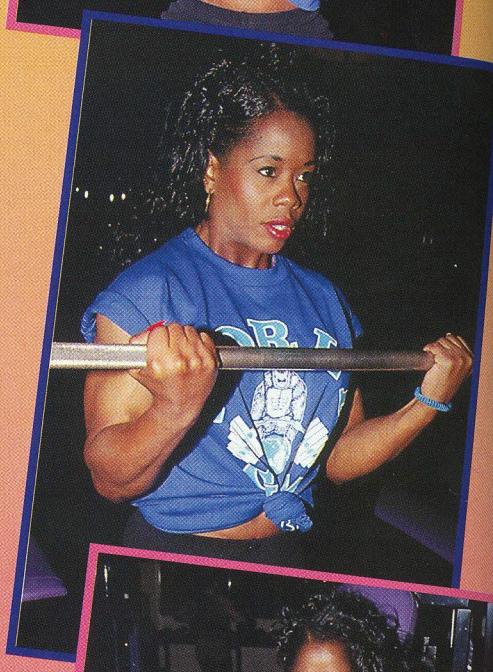
Jacquelyn grew up on the inner-city streets of Dallas, Texas, where she learned to survive by fighting. She wasn't afraid to "whoop" anyone who got in her way, male or female.



Jacquelyn is pound-for-pound the strongest person in WCW. She already has every woman worried, and more than a few men glancing nervously over their shoulders ... with good reason. This is one beauty with a beastly side and the tools to back it up.





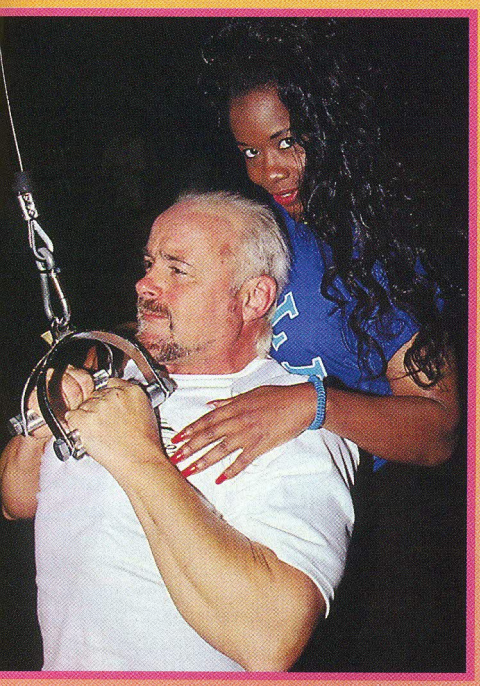


Nancy is just jealous because I'm there for Kevin — and she's not. I've got a real man, and she don't!" Jacquelyn said. "Kevin has been hurt a lot, but I have always been there for Kevin. I have always supported him, regardless of what he did or what he said. There has been one thorn in his side for some time now: Nancy. Anyway, he has always been too good for her. Nancy keeps thinking she has herself a 'real man' in Chris Benoit, well, like I've said, Kevin is too good for her. I'll never let Kevin down, never have and never will. He messed up by associating himself with her, but he's righted the wrong by coming back to me."

So what are the roots of this love nest? No one knows, or at least no one is saying. Rumors persist Sullivan and Jacquelyn first met, by chance, at an airport in the South. The two caught eyes, and it was love at first sight. However, neither will comment on that report.

"I really love Kevin and am never gonna let him go again," Jacquelyn said. "Nancy had better move on with her life because she ain't gonna get Kevin back. Ever."

Said Sullivan, "I don't want to talk about (our personal relationship) because it's between her and I. I think we proved in San Francisco (at SuperBrawl VII) that we are the strong team; we got off the ambulance; they (Benoit and Woman) didn't. I exposed too much dirty linen as it was (with



Woman); this time I'm keeping it between me and Jacquelyn. Suffice to say, Jacquelyn is one of the toughest out there. Everything about her is impressive. She's a duplicate of me. She can do anything she wants ... she's a strong person. If she wants to be a brain surgeon, she could be a brain surgeon."

As for Woman, Sullivan responded, "No comment ... I don't even know if she exists."

Jacquelyn offers an impressive backup to Sullivan. In fact, she often can be the show. Case in point, Sullivan's match against English newcomer Doc Dean, she abused him. Like she does all opponents of Sullivan who he pitches outside the ring. Oh, sure, she can punch and kick her prey with the power of The Giant, but, she also delivers vicious clotheslines. And, she often has nailed weary victims to suplexes on the concrete floor WHILE WEARING A DRESS AND HIGH HEELS! What a sight that is!

"I know how to fight; I'm a brawler. I wasn't trained to wrestle, but, when push comes to shove, I can get the job done," Jacquelyn said. "I've been in the ring before, in Tennessee. And I've beaten men and women.

"I like watching Kevin kick butt, and right now that's fine with me; that's all I want to do. But, if someone, anyone wants a part of me, hey, come and get it, bring it on."

How about Madusa?

Jacquelyn laughed.

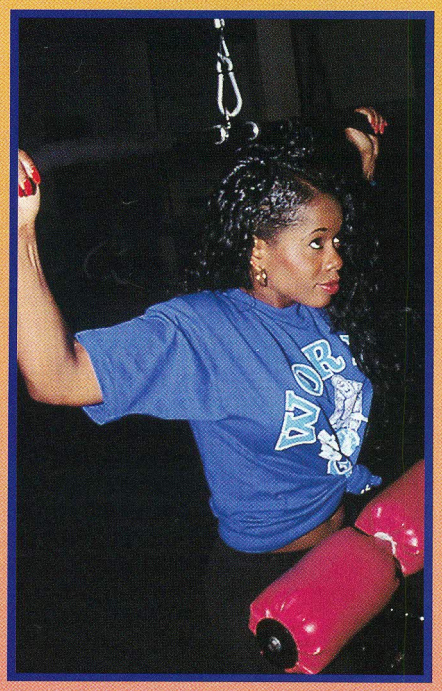
"Madusa thinks she's all there is ... no way! She's nothing but a talker," Jacquelyn said. "She hasn't met a person like me. She stays away from me in the dressing room area, understandably so. I can handle Madusa, Luna Vachon, Woman or anyone who wants to step into the ring with me. And, yes, that includes Akira Hokuto, the reigning WCW Woman's champion. I'm not scared of her. I think I could take her and, ya know, championship gold would look pretty good around my waist. And if Sonny Onoo gets in my way, man, that little runt will get smacked from here to Tokyo. I definitely could take both of them at once."

What about Sister Sherri?

Sherri was tough in her day, but that was a while ago. WCW now has a new queen in town ... and her name is Jacquelyn. I know Sherri doesn't want any of me in the ring. I'm bigger, tougher, stronger than she ever was. She better stay out of my face."

Your take on Debra McMichael?

"I am so sick of her. That bleach-blonde

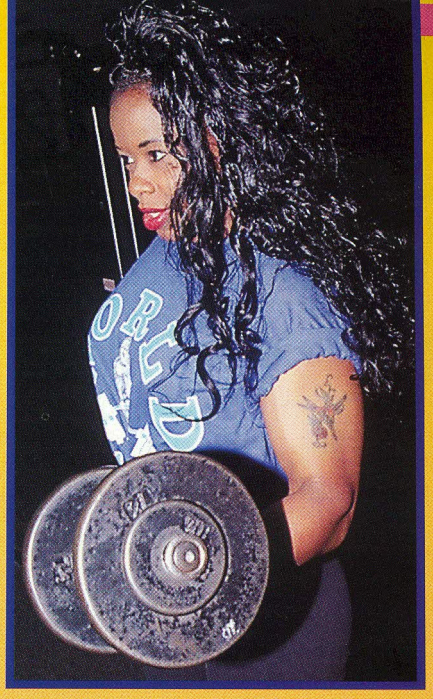


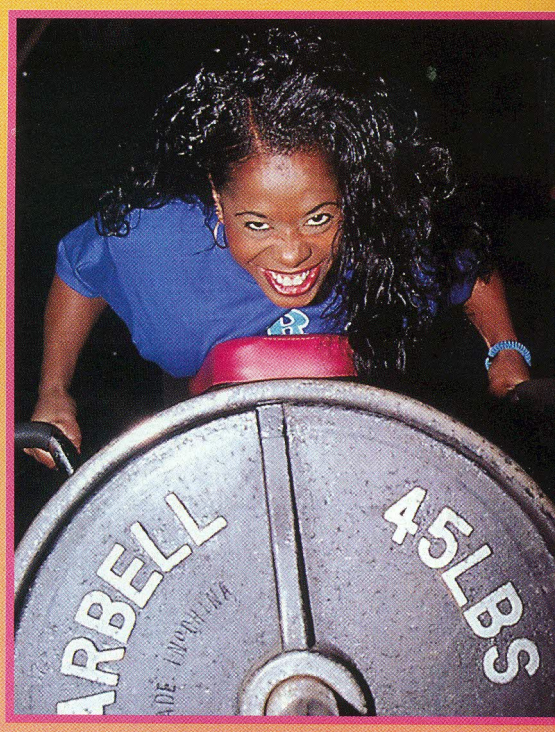
bimbo needs to go back where she came from before she gets hurt. If she gets in my face even once — WHAM! — I'll knock her silly. And I also can handle that washed-up football player husband of hers, Steve 'Mongo' McMichael."

Jacquelyn's power is too legit to quit, just like the couple that is Sullivan and Jacquelyn. She is a second-degree black belt who has extensive martial arts and kick-boxing training. Jacquelyn has four brothers and a sister, and often was the top football player when, as kids, they gathered with other locals for a game.

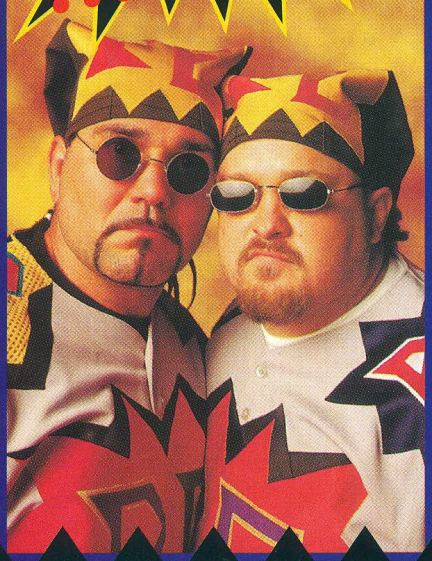
"I was the best football player on the street, honestly," said Jacquelyn, who often played wide receiver. "The guys would get so mad at me because I would out-run them, catch the pass and, basically, put them in their place. They were jealous because I was just so good."

Good definitely is the wrong word to sum up Jacquelyn's attitude, but we decided not to mention that to her as we concluded the interview.





PUBLIC OPINION!



By Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge

Look out below, here comes Public Enemy ...

Let's now talk about "The Haircut," especially since there are a lot of rumors floating around. The truth is, I wanted that haircut because I was tired of sleeping on them knots in my head; they was burnin' a hole in my head. Plus, opponents was always using them as an advantage. Opponents would pull me from corner to corner WITH MY OWN HAIR! But not anymore. Johnny and I are on a winning streak since I shaved my head. The shaving has been an advantage to Public Enemy. To be honest with you, I decided in the gym that morning when my hair got caught in the bench that, hey, I had had enough of it, even though it took me three years to grow that hair. Johnny shaved it and did as well as any barber in the world. I tried to get him to shave his head as well. He thought about it, but didn't go for it. I caught the Faces of Fear off-guard when I went out there looking like that — and that was the first time I saw Meng laugh in my whole entire life. It's kind of ironic ... I got them off, he got them on. What do I say to Meng? Keep them knots in your hair ... I don't want them for a while.

Also, while we are on the subject of gyms, a lot of you think Johnny just spends his training time at MsDonalds. Not true. Johnny works as hard as anyone, well almost, in the gym. You don't get to be in as good a shape as he is if you don't.

When we think back to "Rowdy" Roddy Piper's Tough-Man Competition weeks ago on Monday Nitro, it makes us laugh. There's no way he could have broken an egg with that team. I've seen stronger individuals at a senior citizen home.

How are things with Public Enemy these days? Hunky-go-gory. We're on a roll. As much as they hate to admit it, we are the No. 1 contenders for the World Tag Team Championship belts. The Steiners can't get the job done; neither can Harlem Heat or The Faces of Fear.

Do we get the respect we should? No. Do we care? No. Why? Because we respect each other, that's it, that's all that matters. We only care about the team looking across at us. We just have to beat everyone up. Hey, we're the mack-daddies of violence and we will stay that way.

As surprising as it is, I heard a rumor that the Disco Inferno has left the building. I don't know if it's true, why wouldn't it be true, but, if it is true, well, we have only one thing to say: Goooooood-bye, Disco.

Let's talk about all of these cruiserweights. What's the deal with all of these cruiserweights challenging for all of these heavyweight titles. I mean, seriously, what's happening? There are more Mexicans here than in Nogales, Mexico. These guys are running rampant in WCW. Then you've got the guys like Chris Jericho, Eddie Guerrero and Chris Benoit, among others. I'm just curious, what are they going to do when they have to meet a big-man like Lex Luger or Ric Flair? That's when it will get real tough on them. If we want to see what these guys can really do, we need to put them in there with some tougher opponents. Wrestling ability is important, but so is size.

Let's talk about Mr. Buffet, Mark Madden. Every time I see him, it looks like he just gained 10-to-20 pounds. He is getting to be the most rotund individual in wrestling. Do you know why he HAS TO DO the play-by-play announcing on The Internet? Because there's no camera that can catch him on the full view. He had something on his chin after dinner at SuperBrawl, and I pointed it out to him. He rubbed the first chin to get it off ... but it was on the third.

England has Boy George ... WCW has Boy Colin. AKA, Colin Bowman, publisher of WCW Magazine. Our advice for Colin initially was to just shave it all off, but a bullet might be better.

Mortis is a scary individual. The man has black eyes and, as we all know, black is evil. Mortis is kind of impressive, I will say that. You better watch out for this Mortis person ... he's going to surprise a lot of people.

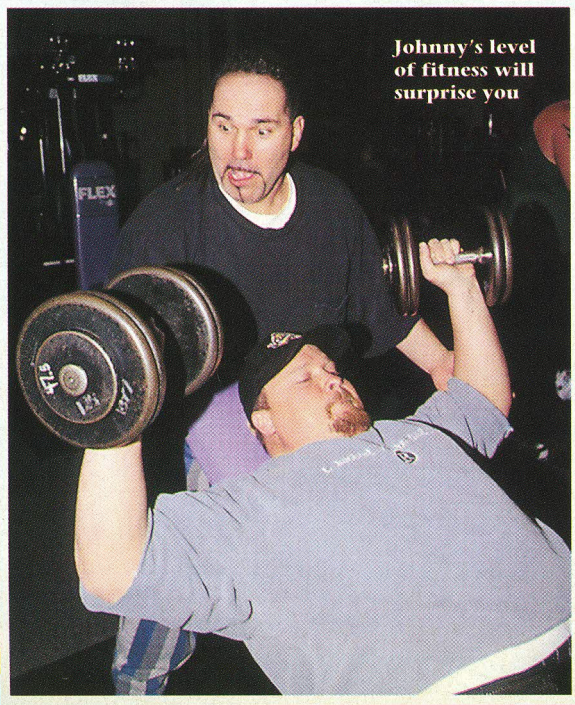
It's a shame "Macho Man" Randy Savage doesn't have what it takes to be a winner anymore. That's gotta be the reason he joined the losing crew, The NWO.

Do you think Lex Luger and The Giant can trust each other? We don't. Why? To be successful in the tag team ranks, you have to be a team. Lex and The Giant are nice guys, but they basically are two singles wrestlers thrown together. The Public Enemy, on the other hand, are lifelong teammates. We know each other from head to toe. If they want to prove themselves in the tag ranks, they oughta step into the ring with Public Enemy; we'll teach them a thing or two. And who wouldn't want to see The Giant sail through one of our steel-enforced tables. We are the table masters. There wasn't even such a thing as Table-dancing until we showed up. We were the first.

We have to give Jacquelyn credit; she tried to save her man at SuperBrawl, and even sacrificed her man in the process. That's cool.

What is happening to The Four Horsemen? Ric Flair, forget about it; now is the time to retire. Arn Anderson, you're just faking some kind of injury. Steve McMichael ... if you're gonna put money in that briefcase, you better just bring it to the bank. Jeff Jarrett, you're a phoney. Chris Benoit, you've fallen too hard for Woman.

OK, that's it for this month. Be safe.



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LUCHA LIBRE

WITH THE INVASION OF MEXICAN TALENT INTO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AT MEGA-FORCE, WCW MAGAZINE SENT EXECUTIVE EDITOR ROSS FORMAN SOUTH OF THE BORDER TO LOOK AT THEIR GRAPPLING GREATS, MANY OF WHOM ALSO COMPETE WITHIN THE RANKS OF WCW. ROSS ATTENDED THE PROMO AZTECA LUCHA LIBRE CARD FEB. 21, WHICH FEATURED KONAN, REY MYSTERIO, JR., SUPER CALO, AND OTHERS.

TIJUANA, Mexico - The cross-country United Airlines morning flight, Chicago-to-San Diego, allowed me a little more than four hours to catch up on the overnight news. USA TODAY, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times ... I read them all. Or at least glanced over every page of the three papers. I'm not much of a movie person, at least not at that hour, so I skipped it. Nor was I much of a conversationalist. I had a window seat and didn't say much more than "hello" to the 40-some-odd-year-old gentleman sitting next to me on the aisle of our 757 plane. Then again, he didn't say much to me either, so, no big deal. We arrived about an hour late which, to me, also was no big deal. But then, as we were de-planing, the gentleman next to me noticed my blue denim WCW Monday Nitro shirt.

"WCW? Hmm, I just read something about WCW," he said, unprovoked.

At that point, I obviously wanted to talk with him. I told him about WCW Magazine; I told him about the wrestling I was heading to that evening in Tijuana; and asked where/what he read about WCW.

"It was in 'Ad Age' ... it's still right here in the seat-pocket in front of me," he said.

Sure enough, he grabbed the issue, thumbed through to the story. "Here it is," he said. "Have a good day ... you can have the issue."

Right there, in black and white, WCW was hyped, complete with a photo of ads that will appear around the country — the United States, that is — of Rey Mysterio, Jr., The Flying Fury as he was called.

And it was Rey who picked me up at the airport. He was glad to see me, glad to see I, er, we — WCW Magazine — would spend the time and space on the Mexican sensations IN THEIR HOMELAND.

And I was glad to be able to show the article to him. Granted, I don't think he knew anything about 'Ad Age', such as how prestigious it is, but, he was glad to get it. He showed it with pride to family and friends, anyone and everyone he could, even though some, er, most had trouble reading the English. Still, they saw his photo and the spark in his eye, and knew he was pleased. Rightfully so.

We had lunch — pizza and pasta — in San Diego, then crossed the border for a Tijuana hotel. Rey had to run a few errands, while I wanted to do a bit of shopping. Or at least snag a postcard or two. The hotel was nice, on par with a Holiday Inn, although no one at the front-desk or on the bell staff spoke English. Or at least not much more than "hello," "thank you," "goodbye." Oh well, I'm in their country, I can't expect them to speak my language. The hotel room was clean and well furnished.

There is, though, something about watching **Scooby-Doo** and **MacGyver** in Spanish. Both seem to lose something in the translation. On the other hand, seeing **The Nanny** in Spanish ... well, that was an improvement.

Time ticked slowly as I sat here in my third-floor room (no postcards available in the immediate area) waiting for the matches to start — or at least the ride to the Palenque, the nearby cockfighting ring-turned-wrestling arena where, tonight, the superstars of Promo Azteca would entertain the border-town fans. All 3,500 of them who showed up this Friday night.

Konan arrived at the hotel. So too did Ciclope. They, though, were there for only a short time, basically just to say "hello" then move on to a local gym. I stayed behind, choosing the Chicago Bulls/Washington Bullets game on TNT over bench-press and StairMaster.

Ciclope returned at about 7:30 p.m., darkness already set in and a chill in the air. "Are you ready to go?" he asked, English, but with a strong accent. "You bet," I said, grabbing for the remote control. The matches start at 8:30.

We took a right out of the hotel's parking lot, then headed the near-five minutes down the main drag. There's one main entrance — and loads of cars trying to get in. Ciclope, offering his best Dale Earnhardt impersonation, dodges one car then creates his own lane. The attendant, inches from the car on my side, looks inside the car. He sees Ciclope and waves us in. We parked on the side of the building, with about 10 other cars. Ciclope grabbed a suitcase out of the trunk that, as we walked toward the entrance, he pulled behind him.

"Which way?" I asked. "There's only one entrance," Ciclope answered.

Sure enough, we walked right through hundreds of fans. No side entrance. No limousine entrance. Ciclope — as all the wrestlers did — walked right through the crowd to the main entrance. He signed

XTCO

countless autographs along the way and posed for plenty of pictures. Ciclope was a hero, even though he wore a black NWO shirt.

"Come over here," Ciclope said to me, trying to hold back a smile, "perhaps you too should be wearing a mask."

Ciclope, you see, was wearing a mask, as usual — and he brought me over to a few vendors who, on the ground, offered for sale, oh, 50 different masks. They started at 20 pesos (about $3) and went up to 100 ($15). The vendors, set up over a 10-foot area, also sold hand-held wrestling rings with wrestler puppets ($4). Plus, they had the evening's program — the size of a magazine, but printed on newspaper-like stock — (5 pesos, less than $1) and a package of hand-held wrestling statues, or "gladiators" as they call them for 30 pesos ($4).

There was a La Parka mask for 70 pesos ($10), which was the only one I recognized. No word if it was match-worn, or just a replica. Still, it was his mask and, as we know, the mask is like a monument to the Mexican maulers.

"I don't know how to explain the masks ... it's just like a mystery. I really don't know how to describe the aura of the masks," former wrestler Pedro Morales said. "In Mexico, there might be 12 matches on a card, and 10 of them might feature masked wrestlers.

"It's unbelievable how the masked wrestlers don't want to show their face to anyone, and they will do anything to hide their identity. They even will wear a mask when taking a shower."

Would you want to wrestle in a mask, Pedro?

"No ... I want the public to see my face," he said, smiling.

Basically, the mask in Mexico is a tradition, kind of like the New York Yankees in pin-stripes. Or, as WCW broadcaster Miguel Alonso once said, "They might wear masks because they aren't good-looking or, and I think this is more the case, they didn't want people at their 'day-job' to know they were a wrestler. I've known lawyers who were wrestlers; they wear a mask so no one knows who they are."

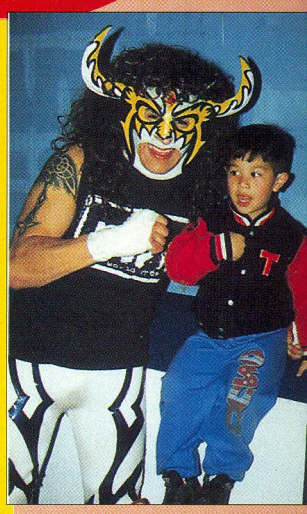
Admission prices are less than $10, and that's for the top seats in the house. And, there really isn't a bad seat in this circular building that holds about 4,000. OK, seats at the top — where I sat for a match — can be challenging to get to for tall people, what with a low ceiling. There are eight policemen — Policia, as their jackets say — at the entrance searching, er, frisking everyone who enters. They missed me, or maybe just figured since I was entering with Ciclope, that I was OK. There is a concession stand of sorts when you first enter. Selection is limited candy, gum and chips; quantity also is limited; but, there were, oh, about 30 different types of chips. Each bag cost only 40-cents. And, how dandy, there was a bottle of hot salsa to sprinkle over my Nestle Crunch bar, I mean, my chips.

Ciclope signed countless autographs as he made his way to the dressing room. So too did Psychosis, Super Calo and every other competitor. The dressing room was ... comical, for lack of a better word. Small would be a nice way to describe it. I think my hotel room might have been bigger, and, remember, I was NOT in a suite.

The matches were exciting, fast-paced. Like, for instance, the Atomico Match that pitted Super Calo and Juventud Guerrera on opposing teams. Ciclope was on his back on the mat at one point, and getting kicked by four guys ... Dusty Rhodes would have loved it. Tag team matches don't mean you actually have to tag-in and tag-out. Hey, this is wrestling — and often it seems as though the rules never cleared customs to come down here.

In Mexico, there is a clear distinction between the good guys and the bad guys. Or, technicos and rudos, as they are known, respectively. And when it was an eight-man match, all four competitors had to be eliminated — not just one. The Mexican action featured two referees for several matches, yet they were no better than our own. Chaos was still common.

There were plenty of high-risk moves. Huracanranas seemed a dime-a-dozen. However, my personal favorite was the Mexican Drive-by, as the locals call it. This is when one guy is dazed, flat on his back in the middle of the ring. His opponents then take turn leaping into the air and landing on him on their back. Every time I saw this, I thought Moe, Larry and Curly would enter the ring at any moment. Another favorite series was when all eight competitors, in succession, miss dives off the top rope. The eight wrestlers then run around the ring, miraculously missing one another until the rudos bale out to the floor. But then, again, in succession, the technicos each execute missile dives outside the ring.



"The Lucha Libra style is a lot different than what you have in America, in WCW. Even the crowd, and their reaction, is a lot different," Mysterio said. "Mexican wrestling has a lot more high-flying action than the American mat wars.

Konan headlined the second-to-last match of the evening, teaming with La Parka and Torero (a bullfighter) against Psychosis, Cien Caras and Misterioso. Psychosis nailed La Parka with an Arabian face-buster that featured a chair. He then used the chair as a springboard into La Parka. La Parka countered with a chair attack of his own. Psychosis later attempted a suicide dive into La Parka, but La Parka nailed him like a baseball bat.

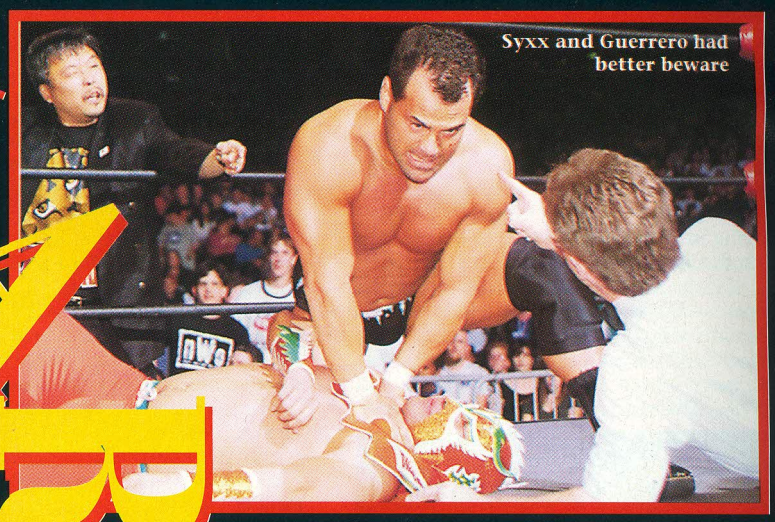
Rey Mysterio, Jr., was the main eventer, putting his championship on the line against El Hijo del Santo. Both are technicos, hence, the crowd was split. And the referee also was dressed-to-the-nines for this battle of local heroes; he had on white gloves, shiny black shoes and white socks. Rey won the first fall after a top-rope huracanrana led to a pinning predicament. El Santo scored the second fall with a springboard into a powerbomb. Konan cheered on Rey; Super Calo sided with El Santo. Rey lost the third fall and his WWA Welterweight Championship belt — but none of my respect. He was the perfect host, as were the rest of the masked Mexican marvels.

Well, everyone but Misterioso. He attacked Rey after the match, and the two went at it for a while, even though hundreds of fans swarmed the ring for autographs.

Just typical wrestling down Mexico way.

TURN YOUR ?

When Eddie Guerrero refuses an interview request, you know something is wrong. Win or lose, Guerrero has always been accommodating, ever since his arrival in WCW about two years ago; he isn't one of those big-time athletes who hides in the training room after a gut-wrenching defeat. Guerrero is class personified, in the ring and out. He is the epitome of a professional, in the ring and out.


Syxx and Guerrero had better beware

This feud goes back years

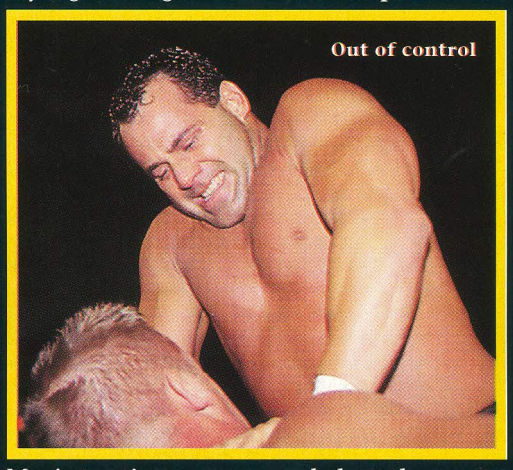
In March, Guerrero rejected interview requests.

Yes, something is happening with the electrifying El Paso, Texas, native. Maybe we should say, something is happening TO the electrifying El Paso, Texas, native. That is, after all, the way he sees things.

"I don't think you're seeing an Eddie Guerrero who you're not used to seeing. I am still the same Eddie Guerrero, just a bit more aggressive. Basically, I'm just tired of getting stepped on and over — and now I'm gonna hold my ground," Guerrero said at a press conference prior to Uncensored. "Basically, I've been backed into a corner — and now is the time to fight my way out."

The words are strange. At least they are strange coming from Guerrero. This isn't the Eddie Guerrero we are used to, the Eddie Guerrero we have watched and admired, the Eddie Guerrero we expect. No, it is a new Eddie Guerrero, even though he doesn't see it that way. This is, after all, an Eddie Guerrero who has repeatedly used the ropes to claim victory. Eddie Guerrero cheating to gain victory is kind of like The Pope stealing a candy bar.

"First of all, since you brought up those recent matches involving wins while I was on the rope, I want to set the record straight: I was trying to get out of the ropes. A lot of people, like yourself, are mistaken in what you saw; I was not trying to intentionally use the ropes to gain an advantage. Just look at the video tapes," Guerrero said. "The referee was counting, and that's his call; he is the authority in the ring. I feel bad that the situation happened to be that way as it was, but that's how it goes. I'm giving you my word, I was trying to get off the ropes.


Out of control

My intentions were good, but the circumstances turned out pretty bad."

Still, Guerrero has notched several rope-aided wins of late. Just ask Sgt. Craig Pittman, among others victims.

"I've been trying to hold back my composure, but I can't. Things are kind of crazy in the wrestling world of late," Guerrero said. "Eddie Guerrero has been pushed to the boiling point, pushed to the limit. I've been backed into a corner and, hey, I've got a wife and daughters to provide for. Basically, I'm sick and tired of getting dumped on. It's time to fight back, no matter what it takes. Eddie Guerrero is a survivor, and will do anything necessary to survive.

"I didn't win the U.S. Championship belt by fluke. I won it through hard-work and dedication. This belt means the world to me; that's why I will do anything necessary to retain the gold. Since everyone is pointing the finger at me and calling me The Bad Guy, hey, I will be The Bad Guy if necessary.

"I've gotten to the point where Eddie Guerrero is the only one I need to take care of. If that means excluding the media, yes, I will exclude the media. As I've said, I've been backed into a corner and now must fight my way out."

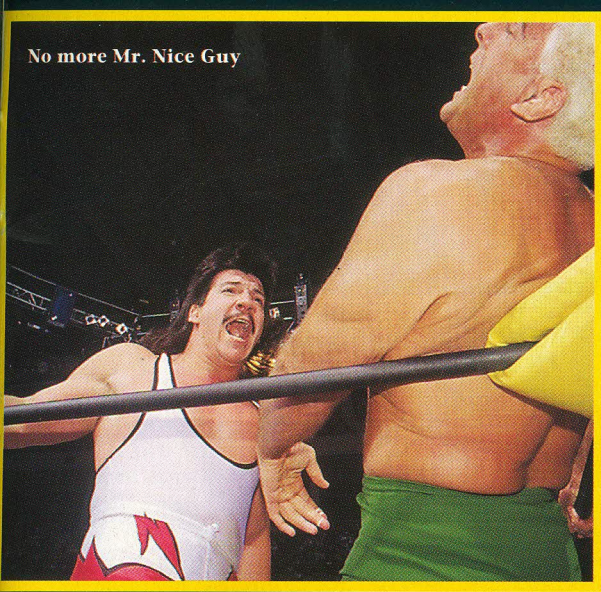
Guerrero has, hypothetically, been backed against the wall by attacks from Dean Malenko and The New World Order's Syxx. Let's remember the facts: Syxx stole Guerrero's U.S. Championship belt; Guerrero, a month later, reclaimed the gold; Syxx attempted to steal Malenko's Cruiserweight Championship belt; Guerrero interfered in the Malenko/Syxx match at SuperBrawl and "accidentally" hit Malenko with his belt.

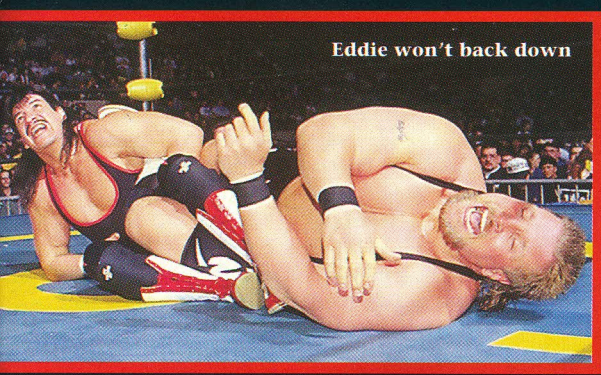
The biggest question is: Was it really an accident on Guerrero's part, as he claims, or a pre-meditated attempt to harm Malenko?

"Syxx is the one who started it all. He's a kleptomaniac who has caused loads of trouble. If he wasn't around, maybe none of this would have happened," Guerrero said. "At SuperBrawl, I saw Syxx grab that belt, just as everyone did. He either was going to take it or use it. I was just out there to prevent something like that from happening. Unfortunately Dean got hit by the belt, and all he saw was me holding on to it in a tug of war with Syxx. Things got turned around."

Said Malenko, "Eddie Guerrero was someone I trusted, someone I respected, someone I thought was one of the top Cruiserweights in the sport. But, at SuperBrawl I look up and there's Eddie Guerrero trying to take my belt from me. Can you explain that? There are a lot of guys who I

respect in this sport, but, when people have to go behind your back to steal belts to try to move themselves to the top, use the ropes to cheat, well, that doesn't sit well with me. There are three sides to the SuperBrawl scene: The Dean Malenko version, the Eddie Guerrero version and the truth. And the first and third versions are identical."


No more Mr. Nice Guy


Eddie won't back down

There's no denying the animosity that lingers between Guerrero and Malenko. They are, arguably, the top two cruiserweights of the 1990s and their battles over the past four-or five-years have been legendary, mainly because they are so evenly matched. Their first two battles, in fact, each went to 30-minute draws.

"Since we arrived in WCW, I think it's come to the point where one of us has risen to the top, while the other has just stayed afloat," Malenko said. "There is a lot of jealousy in our sport, and I think that's the main problem right now with Eddie Guerrero. He's jealous of the success I have had in WCW." I'm a three-time Cruiserweight Champion; he is a zero-time Cruiserweight Champion. One of us is known for 1,000 moves; one is just known for a frogsplash.

"When Eddie won the U.S. Championship, he got help from The NWO. He knows it; I know it; the whole world knows it. I don't call that a champion. If Eddie Guerrero thinks the U.S. Championship is something he earned, something he deserves, he's got another think coming."

Countered Guerrero, "I have, er, had a lot of respect for Dean Malenko. The guy doesn't have any respect for me anymore, that's why I don't have any respect for him now. I've tried to apologize to him on countless occasions, but he doesn't listen, won't accept my apology. He wants to be mean, play hardball? Well, I too can be mean and play hardball. When it's time to get mean, Eddie Guerrero will get mean, trust me.

"I have always said, 'Dean Malenko brings out the best in Eddie Guerrero, and I hope I do the same to him.' Well, Dean Malenko is bringing out a new Eddie Guerrero, one he definitely won't like. He's taking a sour attitude toward me and, if you think I'm going to take it lying down ... you've got another thing coming. I'm not going to take a step back and let myself be abused. So too does Dean. I'm getting tired of being Mr. Nice Guy. That doesn't mean I'm not going to be nice ... what it means is, enough is enough; it's time to fight back!"

Malenko also has been affected by the current events surrounding Guerrero and Syxx. Malenko has always been one to play by the rules. Malenko has always been a wrestler's wrestler in the ring. But, in order to stay at the top, it seems Malenko will compete AT ANY LEVEL. Even what has to be considered a step-down.

Let's jump back to Arco Arena in Sacramento, Calif. The date: Feb. 24, 1997. During a match with Ultimate Dragon, Malenko turned into a madmen; he repeatedly rammed Dragon's head into the mat — and was disqualified for his actions.

"I wouldn't call myself a madman. I'm just someone who has been pushed to the max the past few weeks," Malenko said. "Think about it ... I've had guys stealing my belt and guys who I thought were my friends turn their back on me. Am I a madman? No. I'm just someone who is fed-up, someone who will do anything he can to get a little bit of respect, someone who will do anything he can to keep himself on the top.

"It's often said that every coin has two sides and, well, I'm just showing the other side, what I can be. That's not to say this is what I have become, but rather, what I can be. Hey, two can play this game, and I hope Syxx and Eddie Guerrero remember that. I want everyone, especially Syxx and Eddie Guerrero, to know that Dean Malenko is not one to be taken lightly. Yes, I am the best pure wrestler this sport has ever seen, but, at the same time, don't take me lightly because, if need be, I will punch, bite, scratch, claw to win. I will go toe for toe with anyone, anytime."

Malenko's animosity toward Syxx has, in reality, nothing to do with championship gold. The Cruiserweight Championship is basically an afterthought in this feud. Syxx, you see, was trained by Malenko's late father, The Great Malenko. Syxx was 15 years-old, living in Tampa and training at the Malenko Wrestling School.

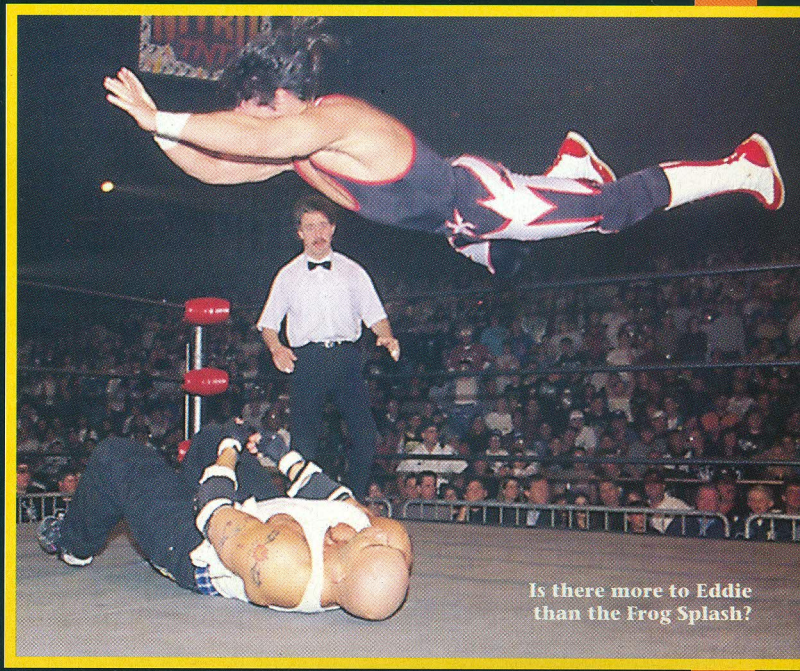
"My dad spent two years, going out of his way, for Syxx. He put him up and fed him. He did everything he could to help Syxx get into professional wrestling," Malenko said. "Since, Syxx has become of the top stars in our sport. At the same time, he has chosen a path — The NWO — that I do not agree with."

Then, to make matters worse, Syxx verbally abused The Great Malenko and, in doing so, nearly brought Dean to tears.

"He really crossed the line when he started talking about my father," Malenko said. "The lack of respect Syxx has shown my dad, especially when I think about all my dad did for him, doesn't sit too well with me. Syxx is one of the top cruiserweights around, but, at the same point, someone has to teach him a lesson ... and I will be the one to do it.

"My dad was a very big influence on my life, and also a very close friend. He was not just my father. That's a really touchy subject when someone starts talking about someone of that magnitude in your life, especially the things Syxx has been saying.

"Syxx came to my dad when he was 15-years-old, 140-pounds and soaking wet. Sure, Syxx was determined, but, it was my dad's guidance and motivation that really brought out a lot in Syxx. My dad spent countless hours teaching and instructing Syxx what it takes to be in the sport, what it takes to be successful."


Is there more to Eddie than the Frog Splash?

DDP WCW QB

Montana is the best QB of all time

Almost every week during the football season, Diamond Dallas Page and his dad (Page Sr.) bet on one football game, just as they have done since Page was 7-years-old and dubbed "Dallas" by his dad for his love of The Cowboys. The sides are the same each week: DDP gets The Cowboys; the elder Page gets the opponent, regardless of who it is, just because of his hatred for The Cowboys. The wager rarely involves money; instead, it centers around a task of some sort like, say, washing the other's car.

DDP has had more than his share of winning — and laughing — moments of late, what with three Super Bowl wins by Dallas over the past five seasons. However, nothing compares with the 1991 first-round playoff against the Chicago Bears. DDP took the Cowboys, his dad took the Bears. The Cowboys won 17-13. DDP vividly recalls that win — and the corresponding bet!

You see, the loser in that game — DDP or his dad — had to pose for a picture while wearing a pair of women's underwear, with "DALLAS vs. CHICAGO" airbrushed on the back. And the underwear was size 50!!

"I won, like normal," DDP said, smiling.

"No comment," the elder Page said, also smiling, as he was reminded of that wager from 6-years ago. A longtime fan of "anyone but The Dallas Cowboys," he is now retired and he prefers to be called DDD: Diamond Dallas Dad. He is living in West Palm Beach, Fla., where the DDP Shrine pays tribute to his sensational wrestling son.

"He wanted to call me Page Two because, yeah, I'll admit it, Page is my real first name, but, even back then I told him, 'Hey, I am second to no one.'"

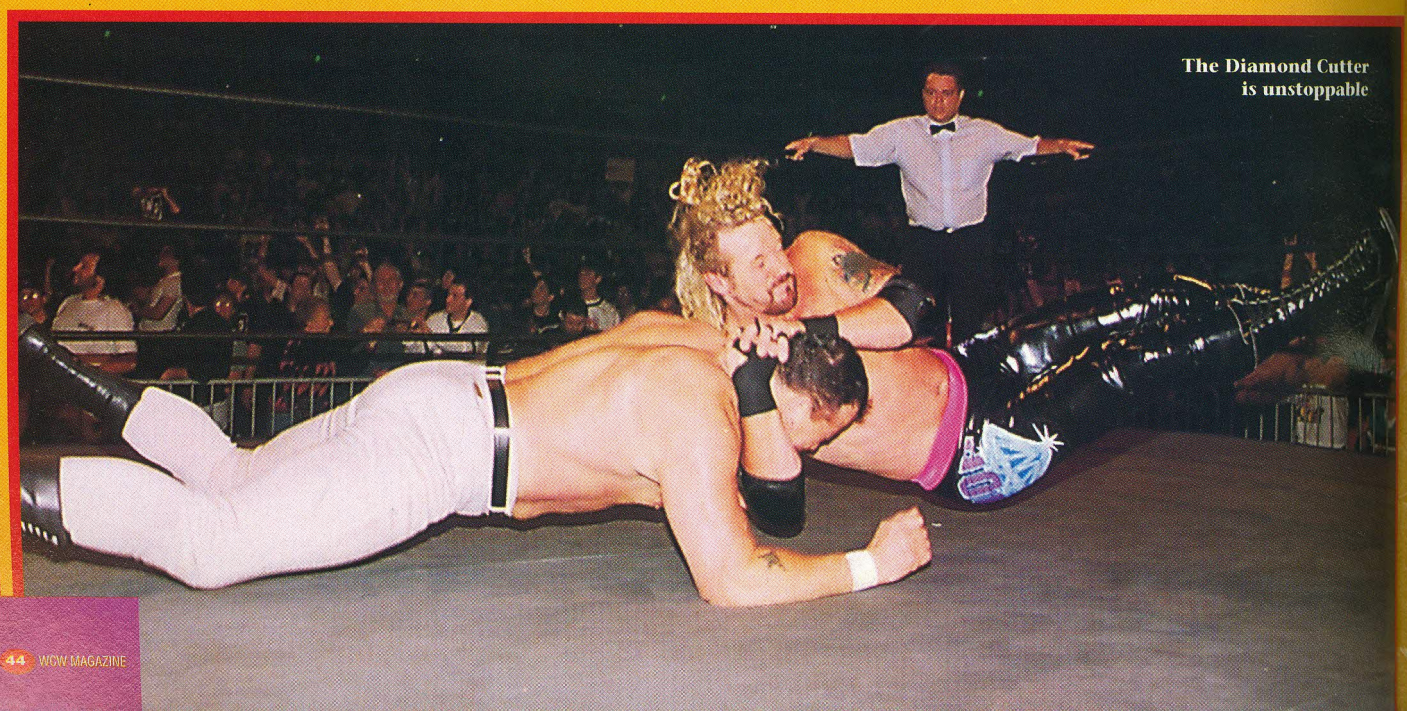
DDP takes a back seat to no one. He's a straight-shooting, up-front fighter who doesn't pull any punches. If he's got a gripe with you, you can expect to hear it.

DDP doesn't sugar-coat anything. His ways, reprehensible at times, have been the same since Day One in pro wrestling. If the fans like him, fine, he says. If the fans don't like him, that too is fine, he says. DDP is DDP, love him or hate him ... but you definitely have to admire, respect his talent. He's a wrestler with a quarterback's mentality: Never say die, never give up. And in 1997, DDP has proven to be the QB of WCW!!

"I think it is a role Diamond Dallas Page has always envisaged for himself, but there always were people ahead of him, such as Sting, Ric Flair, 'Macho Man' Randy Savage and 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan," said WCW broadcaster Chris Cruise. "Now, it appears that he is ready to, as they say in baseball, step up to the plate. Sure, there is some question within WCW as to whether or not he has the capability, but, DDP is a guy whose abilities have always been questioned. They asked if he could be a good manager? And he turned out to be an excellent manager. They asked if he could be a good color commentator? And he turned out to be an excellent color commentator. They asked if he could actually wrestle? And he's turned out, because of all the time he spends at the WCW Power Plant training facility, to be a really, really good — bordering on great — wrestler.

"Just a few months ago, DDP was nothing more than a mid-card performer who regularly got booed at arenas. Not anymore."

DDP is a leader, certainly not a follower ... just ask his former "pals" Scott Hall, Kevin Nash and the other rogues in The New World Order. The NWO invitation was there, repeatedly, but DDP slapped it away. Thus, DDP has, unquestionably, turned into the man who can lead World Championship Wrestling against The New World Order. He can, in football terms, take WCW


The Diamond Cutter is unstoppable

DDP works out every day

downfield in the final two minutes for the game-winning touchdown.

"I am a leader mainly because I take control of a situation," DDP said. "As I've said countless times, I'm a fixer. I get things done. When people need things done, they come to me.

"When I played (on the) defensive line as a football player, I ran the defense. When I played basketball, I totally took control, and I didn't care who was out there or what the coach said. I said where things were going, what plays we were running, what we were doing. Be it a pickup game or whatever."

DDP has more confidence than most tag teams, definitely enough for his 6-foot-4, 250-pound frame. The conceit that most perceived in him years ago has been replaced by the fact DDP is "just convinced" he will succeed. As was the case when DDP played high school football and basketball in New Jersey, where he earned every possible accolade, then when he played college basketball.

"Let's just say, in college I didn't spend as much time on my studies as I did on my basketball. Then again, I basically went to college to play basketball, not to get an education," he admitted. "As I now think back on that time in my life, I realize that the most important thing was to get the education, and I wish I put more time into my studies. That's why when I hear people say to me nowadays, 'Yo, DDP, I want to leave high school and become a pro wrestler,' the first thing I tell them is, 'Get your education.' Those might be strange words coming from me, but it's the truth. And I know it!!"

DDP also is an avid softball and hockey player; however, football remains his passion. When you see Page and Dusty Rhodes, another Dallas die-hard, on a Sunday afternoon in the fall, it only takes one glimpse at their face to see how America's Team did that day.

"I really don't have any 'favorite players.' I just like different players for different reasons," DDP said. "Take, for instance, Deion Sanders. I really like him because, most of the time he backs up what he says, which is a lot like me.

Quarterback Troy Aikman?

"He is a great quarterback, without question one of the best."

Wide receiver Michael Irvin?

"A wildman ... I'd like to party with him some time."

Former Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach?

"Personally, he's too straight-laced for me, but, man was he a great player."

Running back Emmitt Smith?

"I'm looking for a much better season from him in 1997. He ran for over 1,000 yards (in '96), yet people still said he had a bad year ... I don't think so!! Nothing gets me more angry, and this definitely applies to wrestling as well, than people who don't play the sport yet they criticize those who do. Most of those people who do the analyzing don't know anything. That's why, if there is a player who I don't like personally, I still keep my mouth shut in public ... because I don't feel I have the right to critisize what I couldn't do, and they are doing it."

What about the 1996 season?

"The team wasn't completely focused; I think that's why we didn't go as far as we should have," DDP said. "But, let's remember, next year, which is rapidly approaching, is a whole 'nother year."

DDP met Aikman Feb. 16, at The Super Show in Atlanta. "It was a pleasure, probably more his than mine," DDP snapped. He also met former San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana that day. Both QBs were appearing on behalf of Upper Deck Authenticated (UDA), a Carlsbad, Calif.-based company that produced any number of signed memorabilia items, such as football, jerseys and helmets.

"Without a doubt the greatest of all time. Without a doubt," DDP said of Montana. "He was a gentleman, and, I'll tell you, he really was one cool cat. He receives an incredible amount of fan adulation, yet isn't overwhelmed by it. To be able to handle the pressure like he does, that shows his ability.

"I definitely respect his ability as a quarterback, even though he beat my Cowboys countless times. When I lost money due to Montana, oh well, I got over it. It's like when I lost the U.S. Championship title to Eddie Guerrero because of interference by The Outsiders ... you didn't hear me crying about it."

Not his way.

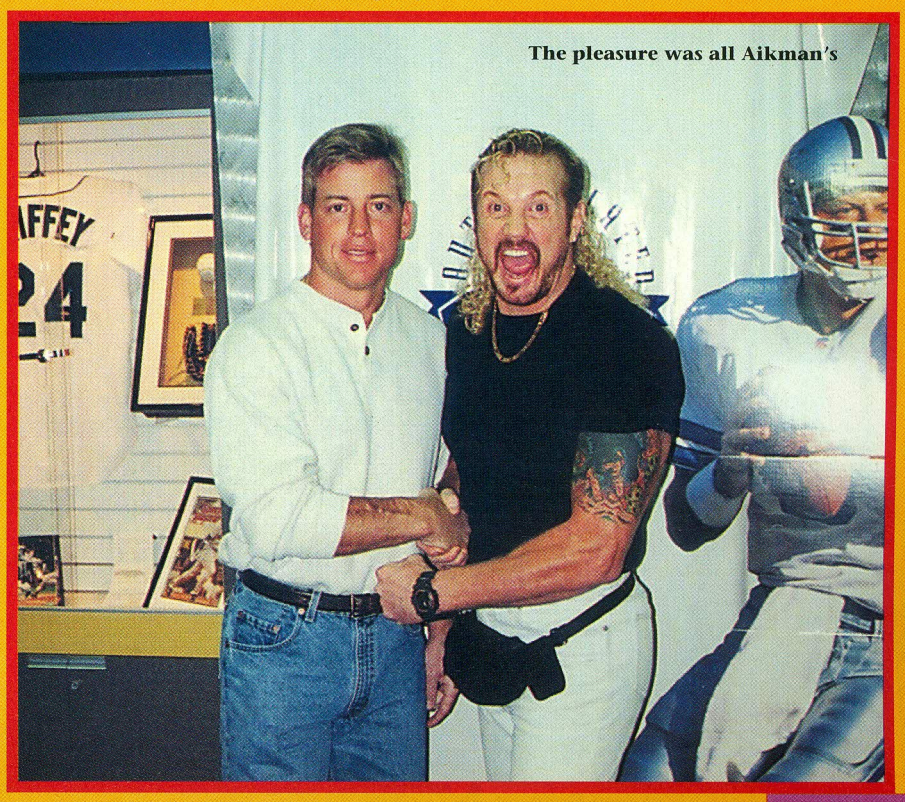
So, is Montana a pro wrestling fan?

Yes.

"I watch wrestling on occasion," Montana said. "We went into a hotel one time and John Ayers, who was a left guard for (San Francisco from 1976-86), was really into wrestling and he introduced me to a couple of the guys, such as Ted DiBiase and others. So, yeah, I'll check into it every now and then, just for some entertainment.

"Wrestling has really grown in recent years; there are so many wrestlers ... but everyone knows The Hulk, Hulk Hogan."

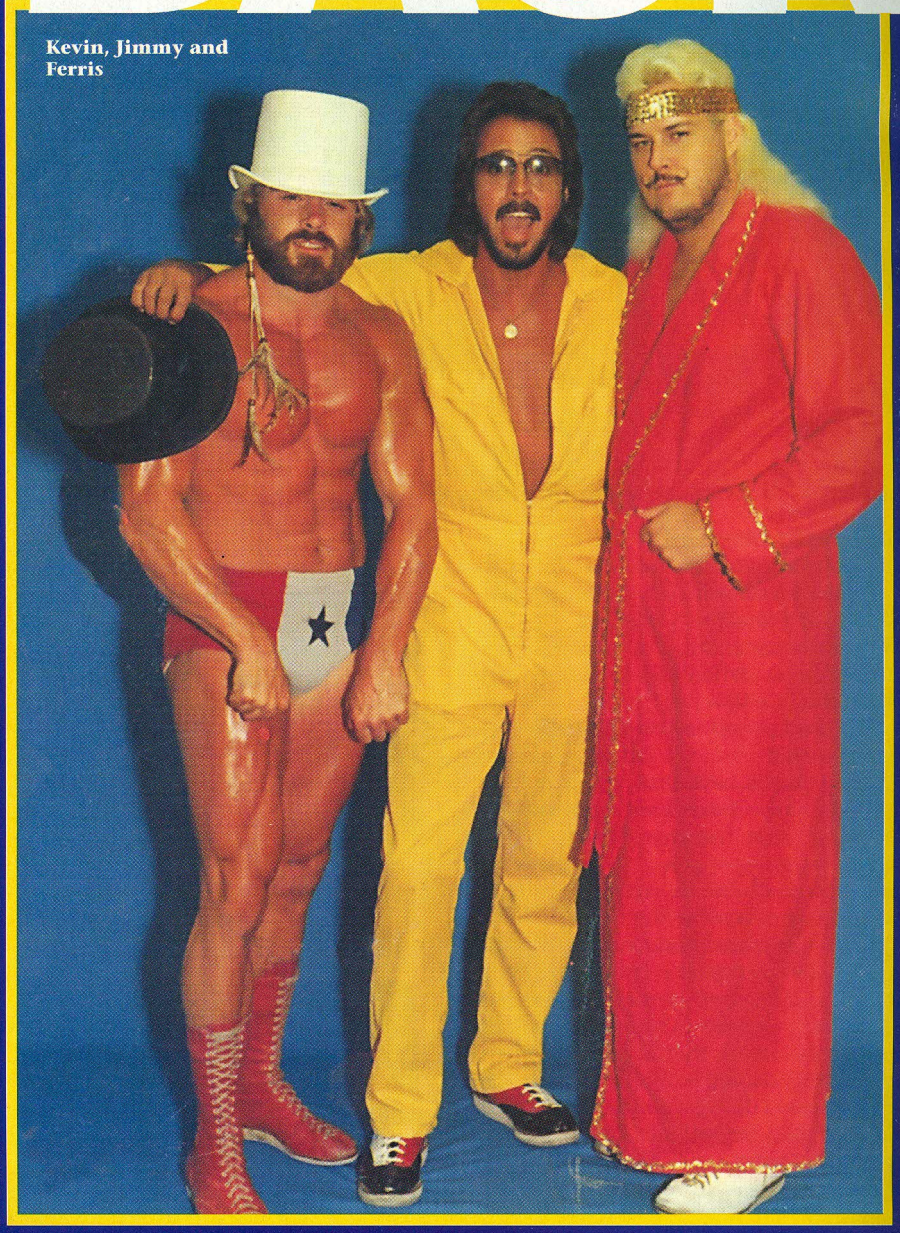
Montana ought to throw his allegiance behind DDP, because he has turned into the Joe Montana of pro wrestling! Unquestionably.



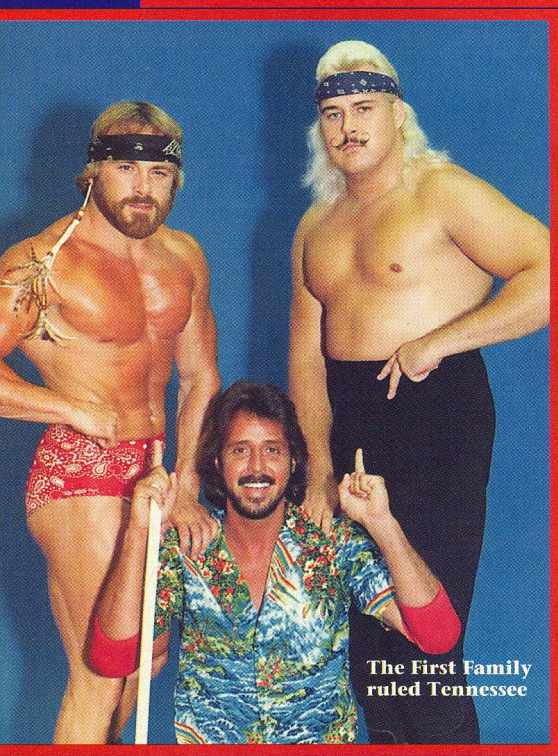
The pleasure was all Aikman's

Don't look BACK

In the late-1980's, "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan and "Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart were the big-shots in the Tennessee area. Along with Wayne Ferris and Chic Donovan, among others, they organized The First Family of Professional Wrestling, a powerful force set to silence local loud-mouth Jerry Lawler. Once, for instance, in a Dream Match scenario, Lawler put up the Southern Heavyweight Championship belt because he wanted a match against Hart. Hart ultimately agreed, but with a stipulation: Sullivan and Ferris were the referees. Lawler had boxing gloves, despite his size and weight advantage. Still, it didn't matter. Sullivan hit Lawler, knocked him over Ferris, then watched Hart score the one-two-three for the victory.



Kevin, Jimmy and Ferris



The First Family ruled Tennessee

It was just one of many W's for the dynamic duo of Hart/Sullivan.

Today, Hart and Sullivan are still securing W's, but now as key members of The Dungeon of Doom.

"Memphis, Tennessee, in the late-1980's was built around one person: 'Taskmaster' Kevin Sullivan," Hart said. "He held more belts than anyone in Southern Championship Wrestling. He turned the territory around. It was, initially, a territory that was drawing 1,500-2,000 people per week. Thanks to The Taskmaster, it went on to sell out buildings with about 8,000 fans. That's what The Taskmaster is all about: Pandemonium, mayhem."

Sullivan ultimately left the promotion "in unfortunate circumstances," while Hart stayed. "I had always wanted an opportunity to team-up again with Jimmy Hart. Now we have the chance, and things are great.

"We try to never look back. Why? The future is where we're going, not the past. But I will say this, we wreaked havoc in Memphis. We came in, defeated everyone, their so-called 'big-stars,' then left them scattered. They couldn't handle Jimmy and I together. That's why they put so much political pressure to get us out of there ... and they succeeded, eventually."

But not before they filled a memory bank as thick as the New York City phone book. Take, for instance, the 1989 drive to Nashville, for a night at

L to R Sullivan, Ferris, Donovan, Hart and the Nightmares were the First Family

Sullivan and Donovan's apartment, before continuing to Louisville. Donovan split from the group to make a phone call, while Sullivan and Hart were locked out, in the bitter cold. They finally found Donovan — talking on a nearby telephone. Sullivan snuck up behind Donovan and slammed down the phone. He then drove him to Louisville — and wouldn't let Donovan return the call until they arrived.

Then there was the time Sullivan talked Hart and Bobby Eaton into a "Dogfood Match" against Jerry Lawler and Koko B. Ware. The losers, obviously, had to munch on some Alpo, or another product geared for pooches.

Or the time Hart fought Thomas Marlin, an ex-Golden Gloves champion in the Army.

Memories, oh, wonderful memories!

"Kevin Sullivan has long been the most dominant force in professional wrestling, not to mention an innovator," Hart said. "Who was the first wrestler to ever wear face-paint? Kevin Sullivan; others are copy-cats. Who was the first wrestler to wrestle inside a steel cage? Kevin Sullivan; others are copy-cats. Who was the first to compete in a chain match? Kevin Sullivan.

"I was very happy to be a part of that time period in Sullivan's career. In fact, I'm very happy to have been a part of his career for a long time. I've learned a lot from Kevin. He's kind of my mentor. We've always been together, through thick and thin. Sometimes we may not see things eye-to-eye, but, in the long-run, we both just want success. That's why we're always together. Again, through thick and thin.

"Kevin Sullivan helped turn around The First Family of Professional Wrestling. He recruited some of the best talent. You name it, they were there, often thanks to Kevin. Austin Idol. King Kong Bundy. Dutch Mantell, The Missing Link ... we had 'em all in the den."

What's been the key to the long-term relationship?

"Success," Sullivan said. "Everything we touch is successful. Plus, we both have a strong drive and direction."

And also a hatred for "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan.

"If everyone had listened to me and Jimmy two and a half years ago about Hulk Hogan, there would not have been an NWO," Sullivan said. "We told everyone that Hogan was no good. And we said it from the start.

"I have long said that there is more of me in him than himself. In other words, he is a mirror image of myself. I know that I'm no good; Jimmy knows that he's no good. But Hogan is rotten to the core. At least Jimmy and I have an alliance to one another. Hogan has an alliance to one person: Himself; that's it.

"The NWO is so successful because, bottom line, it has copied Jimmy Hart and Kevin Sullivan. We had Hogan ready to topple, ready to fall at my feet, and, I'll tell you, someday Hogan will have to get back into the ring with me. And he knows that."

The sadistic Sullivan added: "I knew Hogan before he got into wrestling. I know where he was born, where he lives today. I know his mother and father. Hogan knows one thing: If he ever again gets in the ring with me, he won't have the crowd support nor anything else to draw upon. He will not beat me. His father once told me, 'Please don't ever wrestle Hulk ... I'm afraid of what you'd do to him.'"

Like, for instance, last year in Denver, when Sullivan shaved off Hogan's fabled mustache.

"That's what changed Hulk Hogan forever. That's when his whole life turned around," Hart said.

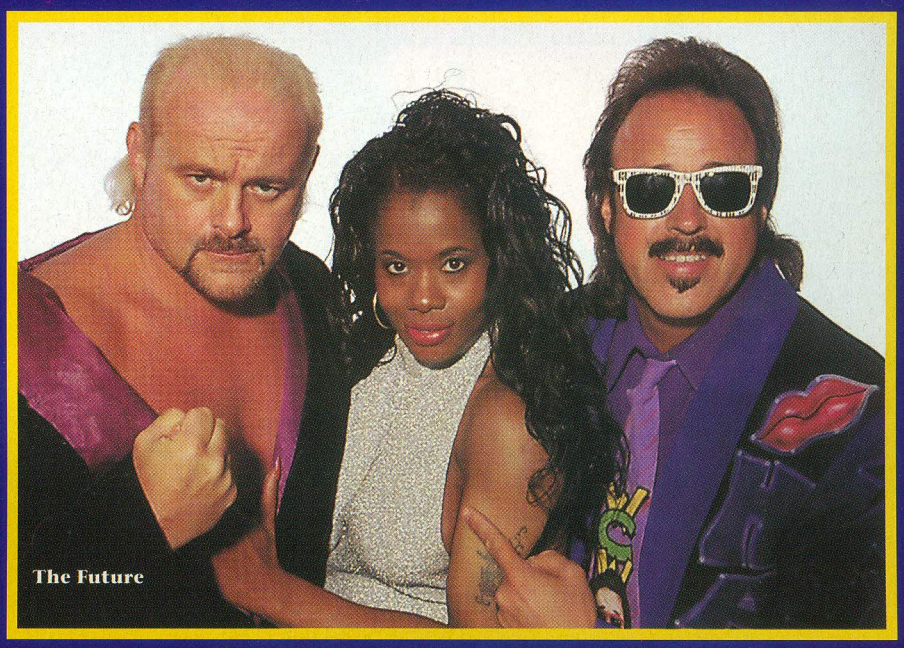
Said Sullivan, "I'm telling you right now what will happen: Hulk Hogan will, one day, come and drop down in front of Jimmy and I. That's when he'll say, 'I need help!'"

Will Hart and/or Sullivan ever help Hogan?

"Rowdy" Roddy Piper probably had a better chance of swimming from Alcatraz to San Francisco than those two Doomers ever aiding Hogan.

"When Kevin sets his mind to anything, he accomplishes it," Hart said.

And that's NOT good news for non-Doomers. Especially with Jacquelyn lurking in the back.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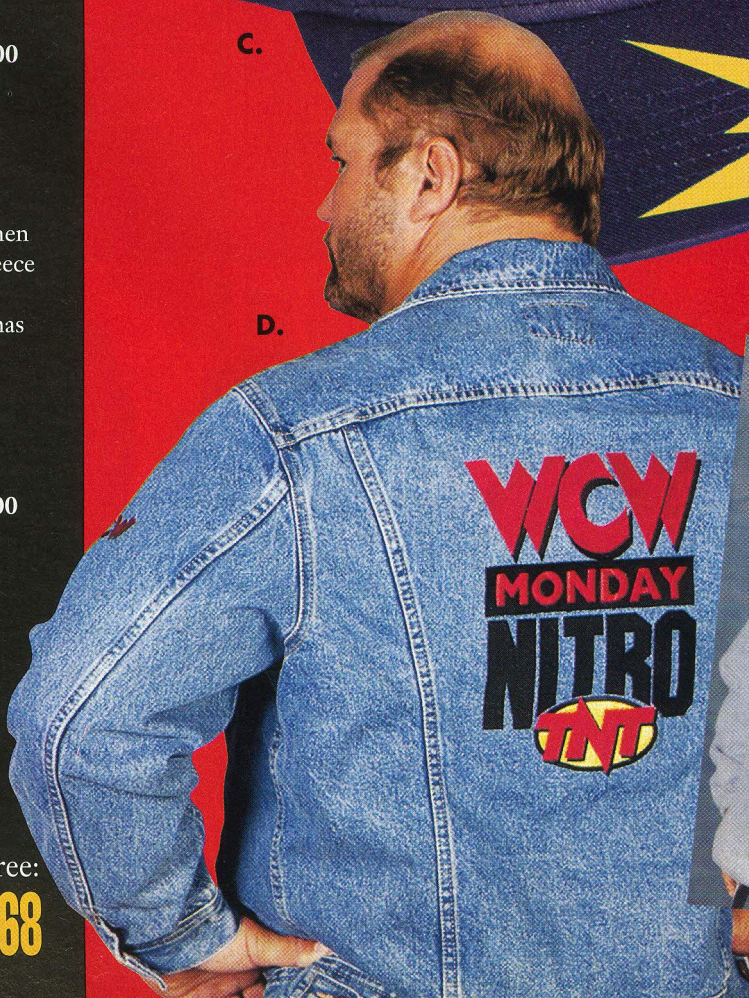

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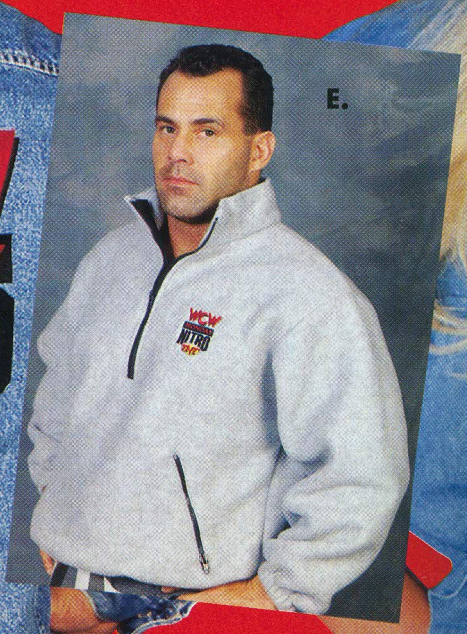

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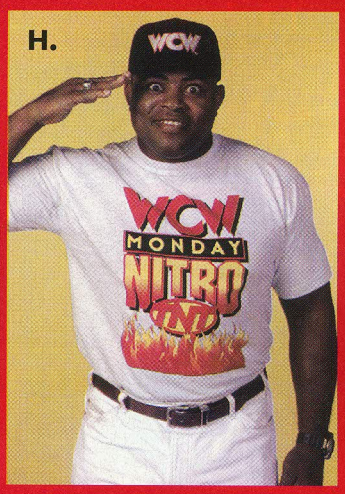

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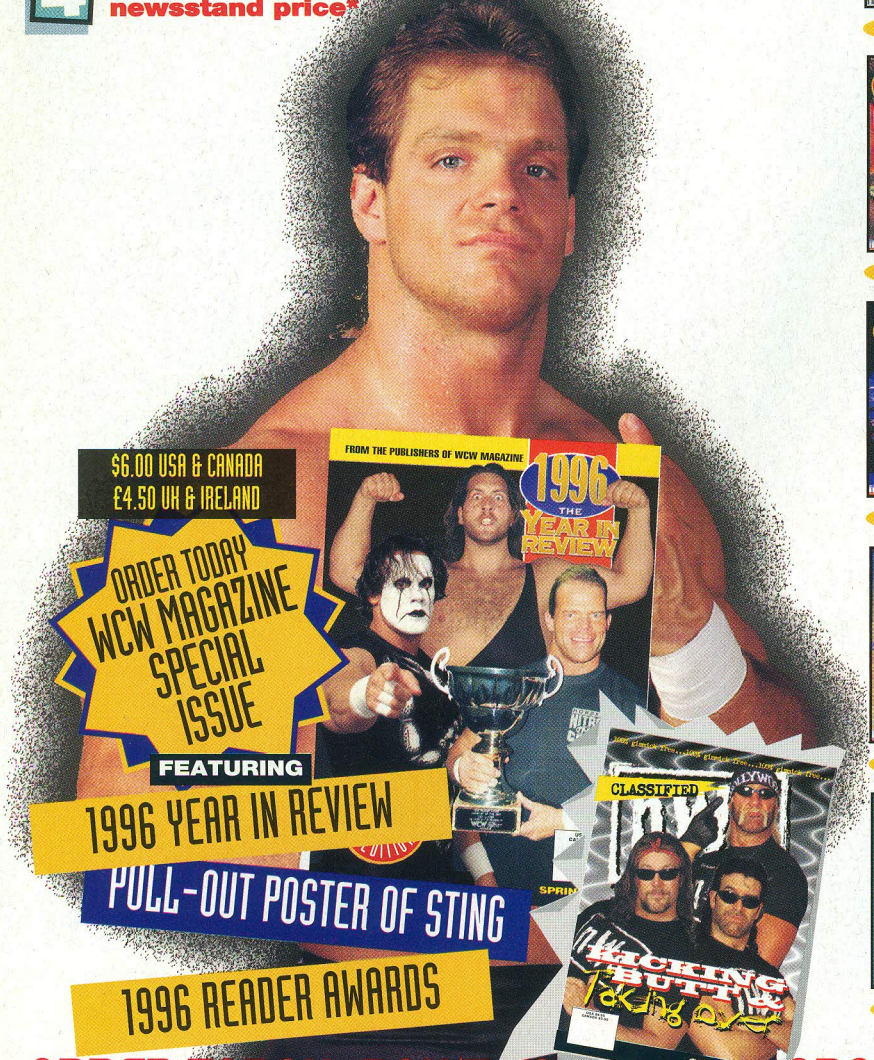

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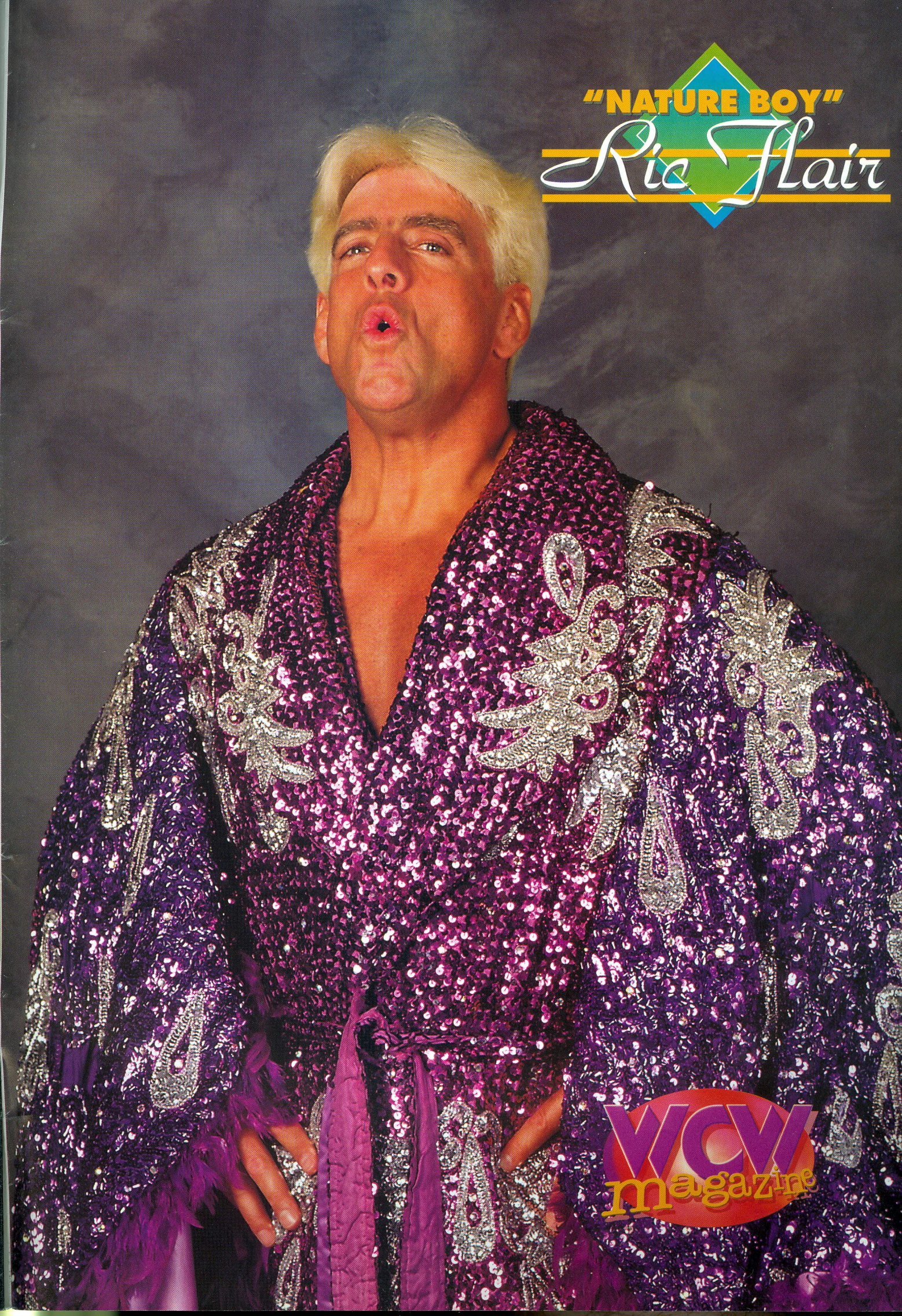
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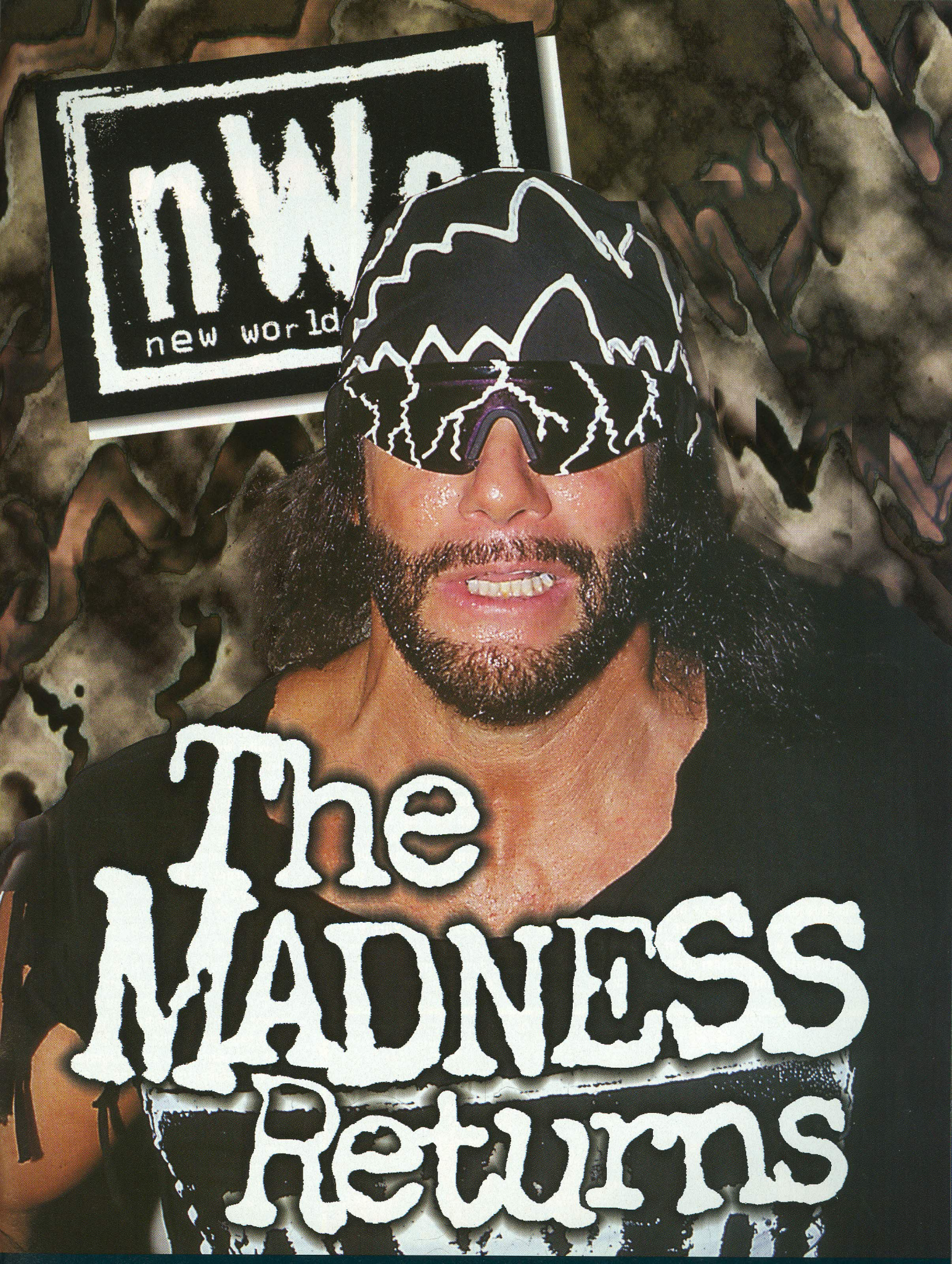


The MADNESS Returns

The UnceNsoReD VoICE
OF The NeW WoRld ORdeR

IssUe 6
MaY 1997

Katz eye view

Harvey Schiller??? Are you kidding me? Maybe I'm too young to understand the inner workings of the business, but I thought there was a little thing called "proper procedure."

First of all, if Ted Turner has a problem with the way Eric Bischoff is handling his business, he should have the (in Scott Hall-ese) cajones to dismiss him personally. Although, in Turner's defense, Bischoff is a black belt. Secondly, if you are going to dismiss an employee, you do it in private. It goes against all business practice (and common courtesy) to berate an employee in front of his peers (let alone a worldwide television audience).

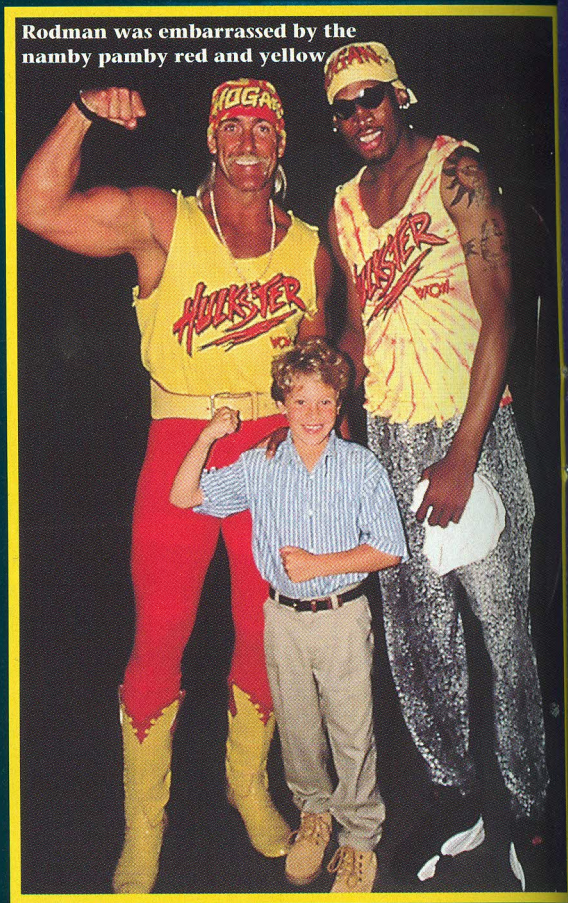
But don't think for a minute that Bischoff's suspension adversely affects The New World Order. What Harvey Schiller (and by the way, has anyone seen Schiller and Malcom McDowell in the same place at the same time?) did just made us stronger. Look at the gains that the NWO has made in recent weeks.

Perhaps the most notable gain is that the NWO has invaded the National Basketball Association. By now you have all heard about the signing of Dennis "The Worm" Rodman. Rodman, the greatest rebounder in basketball history, will join "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan in a tag team match this summer. This is not the first time these two titans have worked together. It was Rodman that helped Hogan defeat Big Van Vader at Bash at the Beach several years back. That was back when Hogan was still wearing the namby pamby yellow and red, so naturally Rodman decided to discontinue the relationship. But deep down, Rodman knew the real Hogan. And it is the new black and white Hogan that has drawn Rodman back to the sport. Rodman joins A.C.Green and Vin Baker as the official members of the NBA NWO.

In addition to the tremendous gains on American shores, The New World Order has now invaded Japan. Marcus "Buff" Bagwell, Masa (my hero) Chono, Hiroshi Tenzan and Scott Norton recently invaded New Japan Pro Wrestling. They have made life miserable for Japanese stars Shinya Hashimoto and Keiji Muto (being a pest translates into any language). The Japanese NWO have already become the hottest thing in Japan at an even a quicker pace than their American counterparts.

The New World Order continues to recruit members from the international wrestling community. In fact, they aren't even stopping with wrestling. They're slowly expanding into other areas of business. They have a presence in film, music, even MTV. When was the last time Dr. Schiller's WCW got mainstream coverage like that? The answer is obvious. The answer is never.

As for Eric Bischoff, don't worry. This man has faced more adversity in his four decades of life than many people do in an entire lifetime. Needless to say, he will be just fine. In fact, he now has more time to act as head of The New World Order. He doesn't have to worry about taking World Championship Wrestling out of an ocean of red ink anymore. He can spend more time with his family (and with his Porsche, Yukon, Harley, etc) and maybe take in more New York Knicks games. All Teddy, Harvey and the rest of the suits have done is make Eric Bischoff a more directed person. We've seen all the work he's done before this point. Imagine his drive now that he has a fire in his belly. He is a man spurned and there is no more dangerous man in the world. Suffice it to say, when Eric Bischoff is feeling dangerous, The New World Order feels pretty mean.



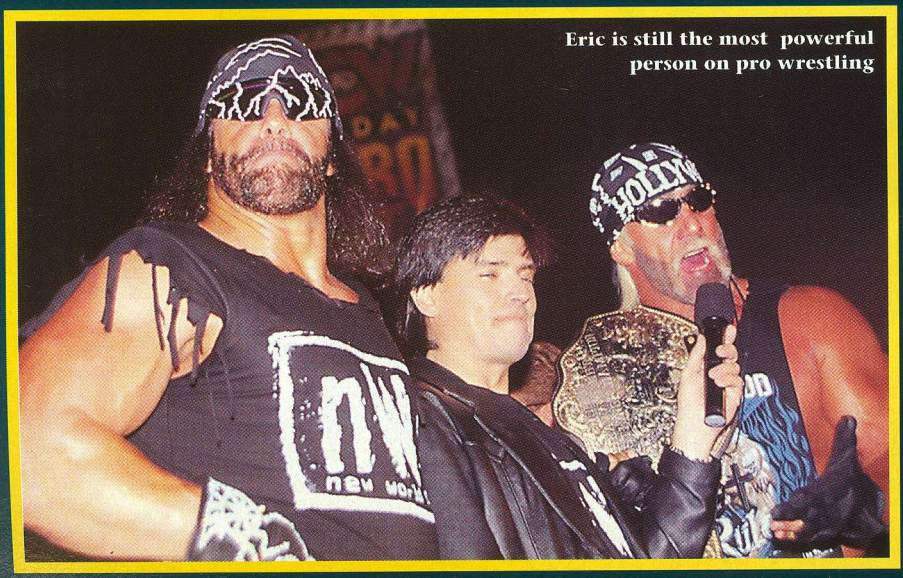
Rodman was embarrassed by the namby pamby red and yellow

What we all need to remember is that Eric Bischoff knows what it is like to be unemployed. He has seen the struggle and felt the desperation. He has vowed to himself that he would never be in such a position again. It was that attitude that caused Bischoff to challenge himself. He went from a C-team announcer to Executive Vice President at a time when few thought he had a chance. Against all odds? No way. Eric Bischoff doesn't believe in the odds. The only thing that he needs to believe is that he is the most powerful man in sports entertainment.

There is no one who can dispute his power. Dallas Page tried. We all know what happened to him. This is a business and competition is key. Lighting a fire under a competitive person is suicide in business. And Eric Bischoff is one competitive person.

So, Dr. Schiller, congratulations. You just killed World Championship Wrestling. By making Eric Bischoff the enemy, you made the NWO the enemy. And when the New World Order spots an enemy, they get punked.

Jeff Katz



Eric is still the most powerful person on pro wrestling

Chono

By "The Nomad"

Hideo Nomo captured countless headlines when he joined the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Japanese media, as aggressive as their counterparts from New York City, has followed every pitch of his in the major leagues. From spring training to the playoffs, and all cities in between. When Nomo pitches, Japan watches. At home and on the streets, television sets blare the news of their favorite pitcher.

Masahiro Chono hasn't just reached Nomo status in the sport of wrestling ... he's surpassed it.

Chono has, over the past few months, skyrocketed in popularity. He is the "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan of New Japan Pro Wrestling, the Michael Jordan of Japanese mat action, the Wayne Gretzky of the squared-circle overseas.

Why? That's simple: Chono dumped his former manager, Sonny Onoo, and sided with The New World Order. And what a world of difference it has been for the 33-year-old brawler, known throughout Japan as "Mr. Blackjack" for his stoic stares.

"I am the first international star within The New World Order, and that's a great honor," Chono said. "Obviously Mr. Ted DiBiase and Mr. Eric Bischoff had enough respect for my talent that they invited me aboard. They thought I could fulfill some key roles within the company, in and out of the ring."

Chono's straight-forward, brute-strength attack has already led to wins over Alex Wright and Chris Jericho, among others. He's scored wins in singles, tag team and six-man matches.

"I am known for the strong style, which a lot of wrestling in Japan is known for," Chono said. "In other words, a lot of submission moves."

And no one does the STF any better than Chono. He's the master. A master who learned from a master. Chono was, you see, trained by legendary Lou Thesz. In fact, Chono made his pro debut Oct. 5, 1984, and was the last Thesz-trainee. Chono also controls a killer yakuza kick, which some of you TV viewers might have heard broadcaster Tony Schiavone erroneously label the Mafia Kick.

"I have a major international role within The New World Order. I know that and am quite proud of that fact," Chono said. "Joining The NWO has been the greatest thing to happen in my career. I think back to the time I associated with that used-car salesman, Sonny Onoo, and I can only shake my head. He thought he was a good businessman, but, as I always told him, he shouldn't think. Mr. Onoo thought I would listen to everything he had to say just because both of us are Japanese. He thinks we have this blood thing by being Japanese, but he's mistaken. The blood that runs through my veins is green.

"Mr. DiBiase and Mr. Bischoff pay well; I am happy."

How much?

"How do you say it in English? Fairly substantial? I know I can say this, I am the highest-paid, most-envied wrestler in New Japan Pro Wrestling," Chono said.

The 6-foot-1, 250-pound Chono has repeatedly held championship gold within New Japan. In fact, when he jumped aboard The Black & White Express, he was then a Tag Team Champion with Hiroyoshi Tenzan. Did Tenzan know about Chono's jump beforehand? Nope. Was he jealous? You bet; big-time. Chono also has been a Six-Man Champion with Hiro Saito and Tenzan.

"I have been a dominant force in Japanese wrestling for years. I will continue to be a dominant force in Japanese wrestling for years. But now I will help introduce, or, as the case may be, re-introduce some NWO wrestlers. Take, for instance, Marcus Bagwell and Scott Norton," Chono said. "We were in Japan earlier this year. We had lots of fun, shared lots of sake and, most important, won a lot of matches.

"The NWO is dominant in the U.S., and will soon dominate Japan."

In fact, part of Chono's package deal with The NWO is out-of-the-ring involvement. Chono is responsible for recruiting New Japan talent into The NWO. And it will be easy. After all, he has contracts for both promotions. Yes, Eric Bischoff is his advisor.

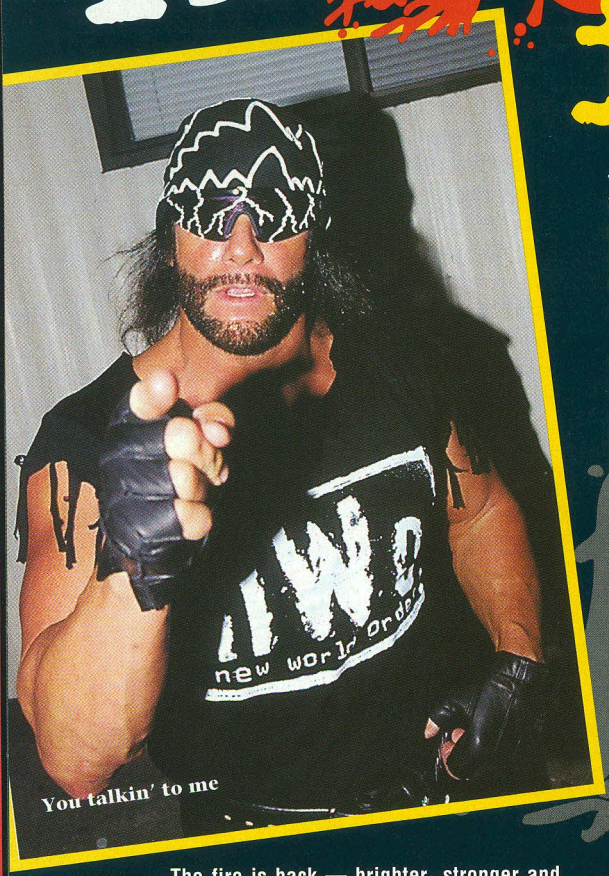
"Everyone wants to know which wrestlers I am recommending for The New World Order. I would love to share that information, but, it's classified information," he said. "However, you can bet it's all of the top wrestlers in the promotion, such as The Great Muta."

(Chono was to wrestle The Great Muta on April 12 in Japan and, if Chono won, Muta had to join The NWO.)

"We want the young, strong, progressive wrestlers ... just like myself."

The Madness is back

By "The Nomad"



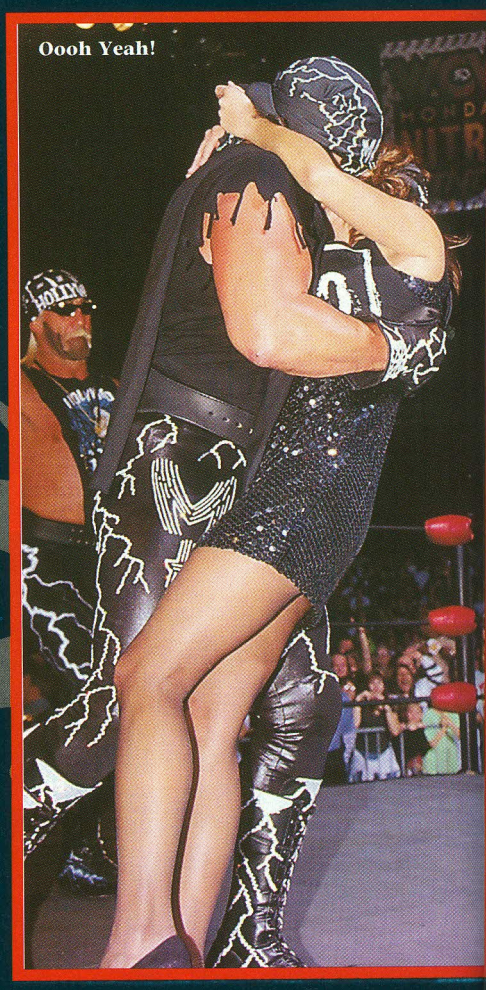
You talkin' to me

The fire is back — brighter, stronger and hotter than a Phoenix sidewalk in July. "Macho Man" Randy Savage is on a rampage, a warpath of destruction. He's a heat-seeking missile with no restraints. He's bent on beating up people, anyone and everyone who gets in his way. Size of an opponent? He doesn't care. Weight of an opponent? He doesn't care. Reputation of an opponent? He doesn't care. Savage has built his reputation — as solid as anyone to ever wear a pair of wrestling boots — on performance and personality, not idle chatter. He says he's gonna do something, and you can damn-well bank on it: One way or the other, by hook or by crook. Savage doesn't sit pretty with the "suits" because he isn't "politically-correct." He does what he wants, when he wants. Savage has been a rebel without a cause for years, he's the first to admit that. Now, though, this major wrestling force is in clear focus. The direction of his disdain? World Championship Wrestling. All the riff-raff that labels itself WCW PROUD. From the biggest of that bunch — The Giant — on down. No one can, or will, escape the wrath of The "Macho Man."

This is, we are seeing, a new and improved "Macho Man" Randy Savage. This time, we are seeing, a "Macho Man" Randy Savage of New World Order (NWO) fame and fortune.

"I'm just being cool nowadays; that's why things are sweet with The "Macho Man," Randy Savage. Things have never been better. Never," he said. "I'm in The New World Order and it's like a breath of fresh air. I'm with guys who understand what life is all about. The strong survive, we know that. There have been times in my life when I've had lapses, and have fought for causes that have no meaning. But now I have my thoughts together; I know who I am, what I am and what I'm capable of doing. And, even though I'm part of a group, I'm still an individual.

"I keep hearing people ask, 'Why did Savage join The NWO?' Well, it's simple: Because I felt like it. It was a full moon.


Oooh Yeah!

NWO = ICONS

Everyone, at different times in their life, realizes things that they didn't realize the day before or even the night before. I progressed — not only as a person, but professionally as well — when I joined The New World Order."

That means all bets are off, all wrestlers are fair-game. Savage, a 6-foot-1, 257-pound perfectionist, is always wound tighter than a golf ball. Now he just knows exactly where the hole is. It's called WCW. Savage dumped that pathetic purple and gold group as soon as an NWO contract was extended. He knows there's only one driving force in pro wrestling, and its initials are N-W-O. Dig it!!

"Life in The NWO has been better than I expected," Savage said. "When you take one step beyond, you don't know if you're gonna be happy in anything you do ... but I'm totally happy. I have no regrets about joining The NWO. None. Absolutely none. The talent within The New World Order is incredible, and outside the ring there have been nothing but good times. The NWO works hard and plays hard ... and that's what The "Macho Man" has always been about."

Savage's arrival aboard The Black & White

Express kicked his Hall of Fame career into cruise control. He can now focus on one force-field, and not worry about side jaunts. Plus, he's got more backup than the Israeli army.

"Someone is gonna have to excite me because there's not really much happening for me. I've already proven myself countless times," Savage said. "My goals now are simple: To remain dominant like I have been since Day One of my career. I'm not gonna let go. Anyone who wants to rock the boat of 'Macho Man' Randy Savage, The Living Legend, bring it on. I bet I don't even break a sweat.

"I've been a champion on countless occasions throughout my career. I've held more championship belts than most can dream of. Will I go for gold again? Probably. I'm sure. But, right now I don't really want anymore gold around my waist. I go swimming on the beach a lot and it's kind of hard to swim with it on."

Savage added: "After Halloween Havoc, I had about three months to do some deep soul-searching. I analyzed what is important, what is not important. Then, in January, in Chicago, I made a stand. I forced the hand. Eric Bischoff tried to blackball me out of wrestling, but I forced the hand. I took a couple of down-cards, and they came up aces, so I'm happy. Eric Bischoff came around and we're cool. The New World Order has never been stronger, thanks to the acquisition of 'Macho Man' Randy Savage, The Madness."

Savage also is "cool" with World Heavyweight Champion "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. Their hot-cold, on-off relationship is on solid footing, Savage said. Hogan smiled, shook his head in agreement and offered two words of proof: "Oooooh Yeah!"

"We're seeking and destroying together nowadays," Savage said of The Mega Powers, the killer combo of 'Hollywood' and The Madness.

"The only reason I do what I do is ... just because. There's no concrete reason why I do what I do. I've always been the type of person who has lived on the edge. Anyone who doesn't live on the edge, in my opinion, is taking up too much room. When you're out there on the edge, it's kind of hard to explain to someone who's in the center of the earth — on two feet, on solid footing. I take chances. Going in The New World Order was taking a chance. Going against The New World Order was a chance. I just did what I did, and am proud of it. Anyone who doesn't like what I did ... I'll see 'em in the ring."

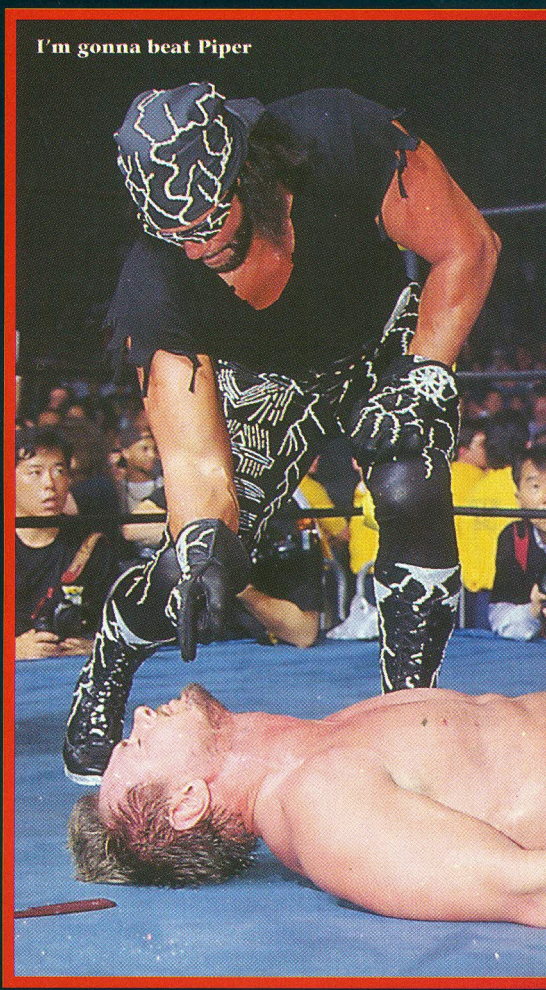
That definitely includes The Giant, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper and some mangy-haired, over-rated, wrestling legend-wannabe.

"The Giant is the guy who got me on the outside at Slim Jim's Halloween Havoc. He's the one who ruined me at Halloween Havoc — not Hogan. Just look at the video tape," Savage said. "Then, while I was lying on the ground after the Havoc match, Roddy Piper doesn't even walk over my body to get to Hogan ... he actually walked on me. He pushed off me to get into the ring to call himself an icon. And that's total B.S. If there's an icon between Roddy Piper and "Macho Man" Randy Savage, it definitely is The "Macho Man." My career versus his career ... there's no comparison. That's the way it is. If and when I get my hands on Roddy Piper, I'm gonna beat him fast and hard ... as many times as he wants to be beat.

"Roddy Piper tried to use me, literally, as a stepping-stone to put himself over. And that doesn't fly with The "Macho Man." I think he's missing something when he talks about wrestling icons; he's clearly missing the boat, brother.

"Now this guy whose name I don't even know, The Man With No Name as far as I'm concerned. Well, he's got a lot to prove. An awful lot. Until he's done something against me, he's proven nothing in this sport. Personally, I think he's nothing but trash, garbage ... and I don't say anything to the garbage when I take it out, so I don't care to even recognize him by name." (Savage was, though, more than willing to tattoo this hanger-on. Remember Monday Nitro in late-February, right after Super Brawl? Savage has vivid — and pleasant — memories of the moment. The other so-called tough guy? Well, he was flat on the mat, with NWO "tagged" on his back.)

"I keep hearing about this 'big finishing move' that he has, that he can apply from so many different ways. Don't make me laugh. Let's see if he gets me in it first. I think if you call him 'garbage,' that would be over-rated. I still wonder why he's getting so much notoriety of late ... I guess it's because people like bums."


I'm gonna beat Piper

And what about that side-kick Kimberly?

"I don't really have much of an impression of her. Perhaps if I had a few 'adult beverages' after celebrating a victory, she might be half of a good time," Savage said. "If he ever recovers from that February Nitro "tagging" and wants to learn what wrestling is all about, yeah, I'll take an afternoon in the park with him."

Another inferior entity competing within WCW is Lex Luger. The pecs are perfect, sure, but he doesn't have a prayer against The "Macho Man." Luger might go down as one of the greatest WCW wrestlers ever, but if you're not NWO, you're nothing. And, "he's not NWO material," Savage said.

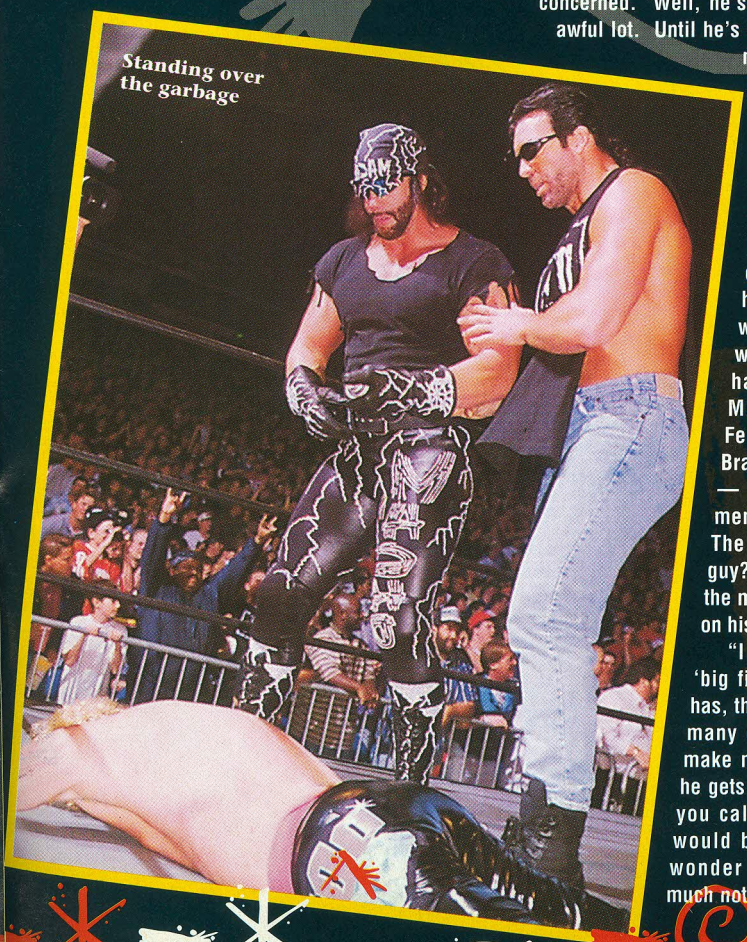
So, Randy, what about your ex, The Lovely Elizabeth?

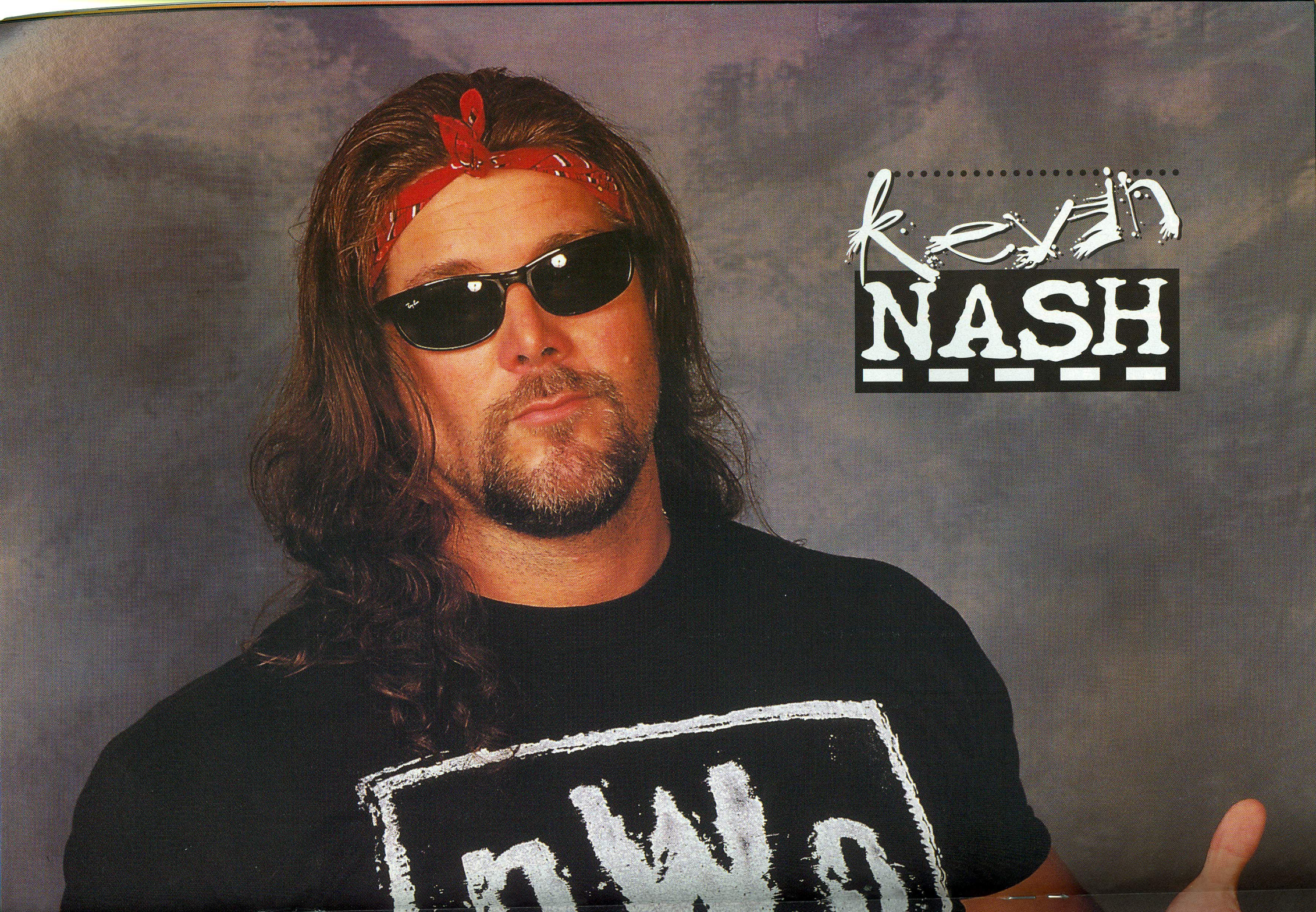
"We've gone to different levels in our relationships; we're NOT getting married. She realizes now that she does her thing and I do mine," Savage said. "She likes it when I drop that elbow; that's what makes her smile — and, yeah, I like seeing her smile. So, I'm gonna be doing a lot of elbowdrops. Anyone else who likes me dropping the elbow off the top rope, crushing my opponent in the process, gather around the ring because you're gonna be having a good time ... I'm gonna be doing it a lot."

And Bischoff?

"I didn't like him for a long time, but when I saw The NWO contract ... well let's just say it was very lucrative and made total sense. Now it's honor among thieves. We're seeing eye-to-eye, totally, just like with everyone in The New World Order."

For Life.


Standing over the garbage


kevin
NASH
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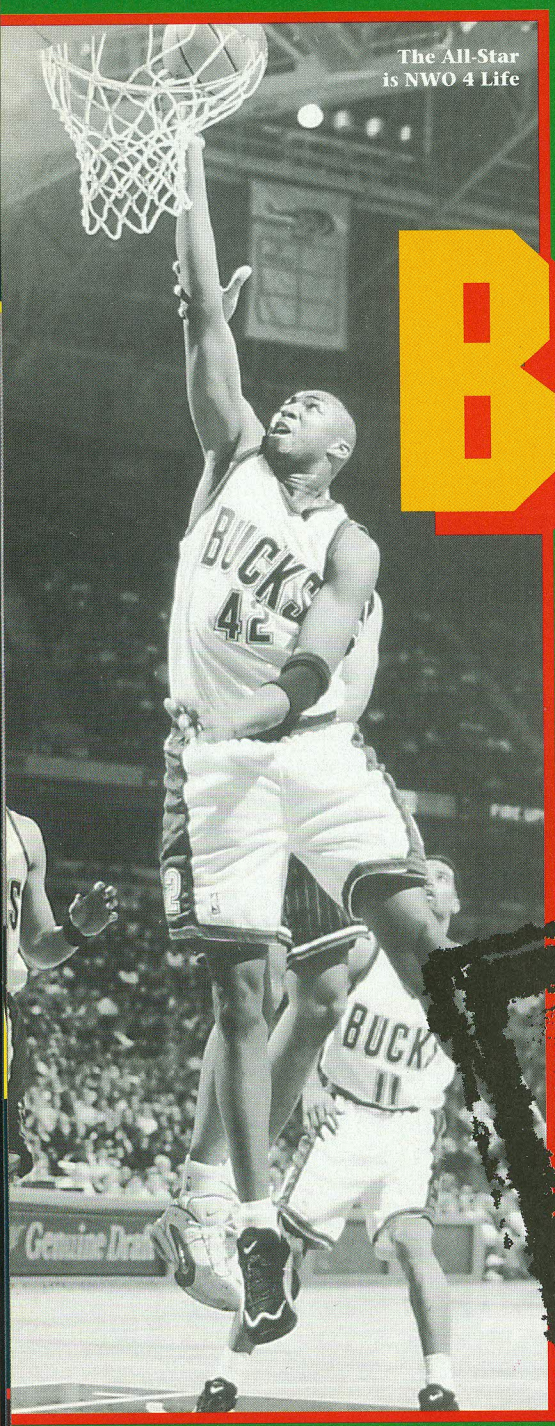
nwo
new world order

BUCKING the trend

By "The Nomad"



The All-Star is NWO 4 Life

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. - Vin Baker is rich in knowledge about pro wrestling history. He knows the players. He knows the holds, and how to apply some. He knows the finishing moves, and who does what. He's 25-years-old, an NBA All-Star and has vivid memories of Harley Race/Dusty Rhodes battles in an around his hometown of Lake Wales, Fla. Baker also recalls wrestling legends such as "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, Bob Backlund, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan ("I love him."), Rocky Johnson, Tony Atlas, The Wild Samoans and The Von Erichs, among others.

Baker also is hip to today's hottest wrestlers: The New World Order. Those are his favorites.

"I am NWO," Baker said one day after practice at the Bradley Center. "At first I wasn't strong, open with my support for The NWO, but, now that The NWO is taking over, I'm proud to say I'm NWO. They're all big; they're all tall; they're all bad-to-the-bone ... I had to go with The NWO.

"I'll tell you the exact reason I like The NWO, their members are the biggest (and) baddest in the sport. No one can stop them. They know it; I know it; the world knows it."

Now in his fourth NBA season, all with the Milwaukee Bucks, Baker has been a fan of "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan for more than 10 years, which goes back to his days at the University of Hartford and Old Saybrook (Conn.) High School. He is a 6-foot-10, 244-pound forward who has been an All-Star the past three seasons.

"I'm an aggressive person by nature ... I guess that's what attracts me to professional wrestling," Baker said. "I'm 6-10 and I play the post (position) in the NBA. It gets physical down there so, yes, I know what it's like to get physical in the ring. I like watching wrestling because, hey, it's a physical sport. These guys are, like, two-times the size of the normal NBA player as far as width is concerned. They put their bodies on the line. I'm 6-10 and know it would take a lot to get me to jump off a rope.

"I think wrestling and basketball are similar; they both are very physi[illegible] [illegible]eticism, [illegible] to succeed in both sports, that's for sure. I think the diehard wrestling fan appreciates the wrestlers athletic ability — but not the [illegible] fan [illegible] once- [illegible] you se[illegible]ng [illegible] month[illegible]st do[illegible] get a t[illegible]yor as t[illegible] how go[illegible]se guys are. I th[illegible]ketball players are [illegible]dously athletic, but [illegible] see those wres[illegible]ove around the [illegible] the [illegible]ze they are [illegible]ly [illegible]ows their ath[illegible]n.

"These gu[illegible]n [illegible]ly move, a[illegible] [illegible]es from a go[illegible] [illegible]s himself on being [illegible] of the more [illegible]e players in the NB[illegible] who averages abo[illegible] gam[illegible] playl[illegible]es pro wrestling moves with his team mates and pals. His favorite move, which, by the way, he does not do, is the belly-to-belly suplex. "That move is awesome," he said.

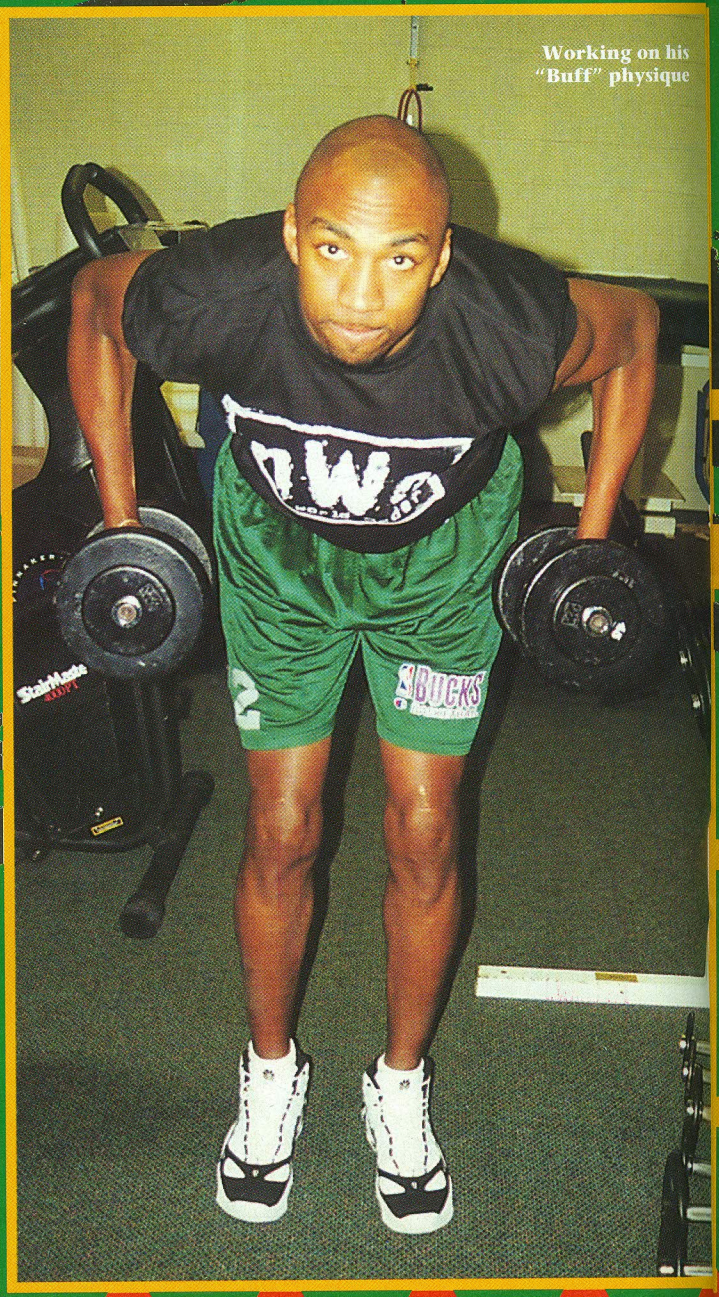
Who's his favorite wrestler?

Kevin Nash. "I'm a big fan of his. I think he's the best in all of wrestling. He's big, yet agile. He's one of the top ten people I would love to meet, talk to, get an autograph from."

Nash, ironically, played college basketball at Tennessee before turning to pro wrestling.

What about a little one-on-one, Nash vs. Baker?

"In basketball, maybe," Baker said, smiling, "I'd probably have to stick to the



Working on his "Buff" physique

perimeter (game against Nash); I think he could control things down in the paint."

What about Nash's tag team partner, Scott Hall?

"I like him. I like him a lot. He's really improved since he's teamed with Nash. He's big; I don't think he's as aggressive as Kevin, but, he's tough and has the same athletic ability as Nash," said Baker, nicknamed "The Pressure Cooker."

Who don't you like?

"Well, this might sounds crazy, but, I have to admit it: I'm moving away from Ric Flair a little bit. Why? I'll tell you exactly why: Ric Flair was The Man in WCW. But, now that I'm with The NWO, I'm more with Hulk and Kevin, and I don't think Ric has the same pull he once did," Baker said. "Plus, Ric is friends with Sir Charles Barkley, an NBA enemy. Ya know, I definitely could see those two together. Their personalities are somewhat the same."

Baker is a strong supporter of NBA rival-turned-NWO'er Dennis Rodman. "I can see Dennis wrestling. He's got that flair, that mentality. He's basically a wrestler in our league." Rodman is, arguably, the NBA's best rebounder. "He's a great basketball player, but does it in a physical way."

Who else in the NBA has NWO potential?

Shaq. ""He is huge ... his body and his mentality are NWO, 100 percent."

Baker added: "A lot of people say basketball players are egotistical, self-centered people who only care about themselves, their [illegible]m. That's how it is in The NWO, care for the [illegible]m first. When you're in The NWO, you don't [illegible] what the fans say, and that's just how we [illegible] to approach a game in, say, Madison S[illegible] Garden against the New York Knicks; or th[illegible]ed Center against the Chicago Bulls.

[illegible] Just have to kick butt and take names, like [illegible] NWO. The New World Order is a no-[illegible]nse group. I like that about them. Ther[illegible]tude is TCOB: Taking Care Of Busin[illegible]st like ours."

He [illegible] Vin Baker's opinions on several NWO m[illegible]rs:

SYXX

"I [illegible] his style, his mov[illegible] He's very aggressiv[illegible]

"TRILLIONAIRE" TED DiBIASE

[illegible]g on Ted's payroll comes with a lot of perks, protection. I don't think I get as many perks from our owner as I would get from him. It wouldn't be too bad to work for 'Trillionaire' Ted, and I remember him as a great wrestler."

ERIC BISCHOFF

"I like him. In my sport, the people who have personality are the ones who get big endorsements; that would be Eric Bischoff. He's charismatic, just like 'Neon' Deion Sanders. Long live The King."

NICK PATRICK

"I wish some of our refs would work with us like Nick Patrick works with The NWO. I like Nick Patrick because everything is gonna go The NWO's way when Nick Patrick is in the ring."

MARCUS "BUFF" BAGWELL

"He's huge. He's got a body that I would die for. I think I would be getting the same endorsements as Shaq if I had the same kind of body as 'Buff' Bagwell."

SCOTT "FLASH" NORTON

"He's a powerhouse, a star."

BIG BUBBA

"He's aggressive, someone who can tussle with anyone in WCW. I like his image. He can handle a lot of people. He's one of my all-time favorites."

MICHAEL WALLSTREET

"I like his style, also the way he handles the money. Him and Ted DiBiase ... I'm sure they have some great ideas that I could use."

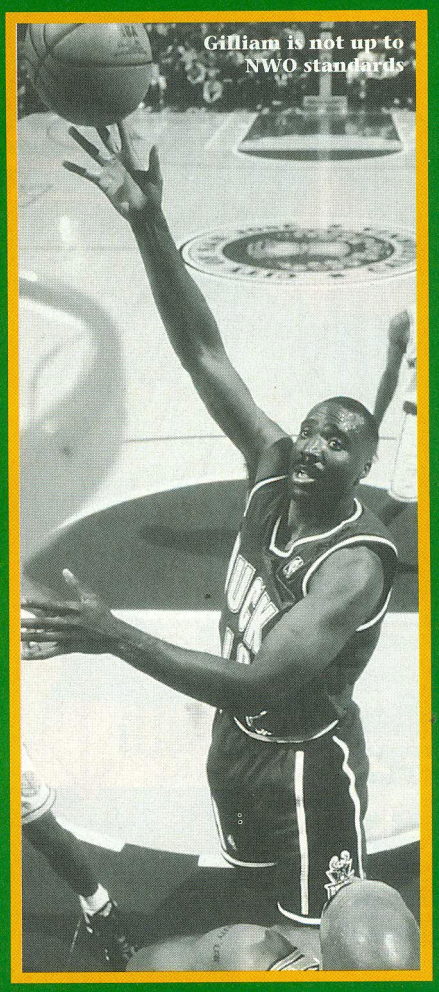
MASAHIRO CHONO

"He's one of the best Japanese wrestlers. He's more aggressive than most Japanese wrestlers. He's big and has that mean streak in him. He's gonna be a star for a long time to come."

By "The Nomad"

Vin Baker isn't the Milwaukee Bucks' only pro wrestling backer. Veteran forward Armon Gilliam also enjoys the mat wars. He, however, is a WCW supporter through and through, and being the fair organization that we are, we are letting him have his say.

"I like real men, if you know what I mean. And you find real men in WCW," said Gilliam, now in his 10th NBA season, his first with the Bucks. "I grew up in Pittsburgh and go back to the days of Bruno Sammartino for my wrestling history. It definitely is a sport that I have appreciated over the years. Some of the wrestling greats I enjoyed were Ivan Putski, "Superstar" Billy Graham and Hulk Hogan."



Gilliam is not up to NWO standards

Yes, Gilliam was a Hogan-backer, but not since he jumped aboard the Black & White Express, aka, The New World Order. The former UNLV superstar now supports Lex Luger, among others.

"I appreciate the wrestlers, what they do," Gilliam said. "Lex Luger is a great athlete. He's in great physical shape. You don't just get that way without training and dedication, and I really appreciate that about him because I'm an athlete and I have to do the same.

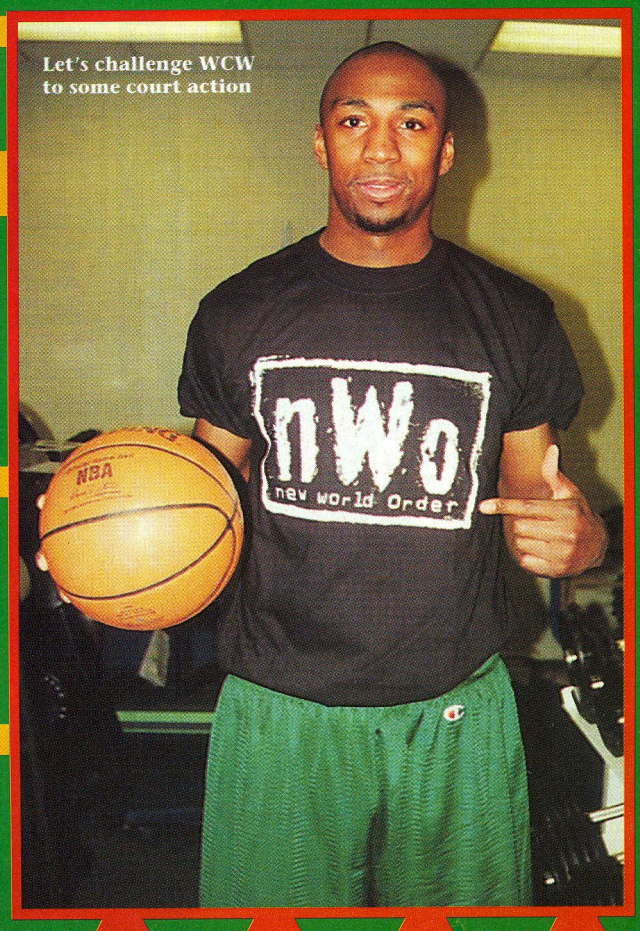
"It takes dedication to be a successful wrestler, what with all the pounding your body takes. I appreciate the moves, techniques that they do."

Gilliam wrestled at Bethel Park High School in Pittsburgh.

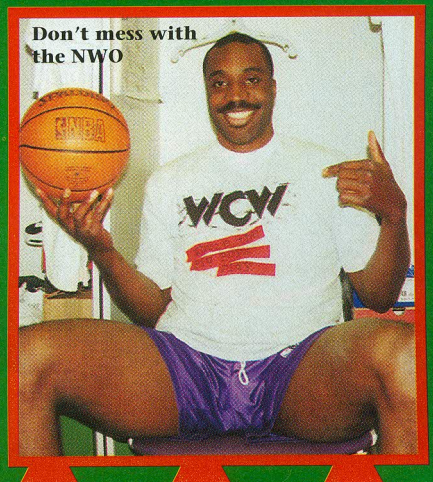
"Hulk Hogan, he's my arch-enemy. I used to like him, but he's drifted off to my bad graces of late," Gilliam said.

What about Baker's affection for The NWO?

"Oh, yeah, there's a little hatred, a little bitterness toward him (for that), but, luckily it hasn't spilled over onto the basketball court."

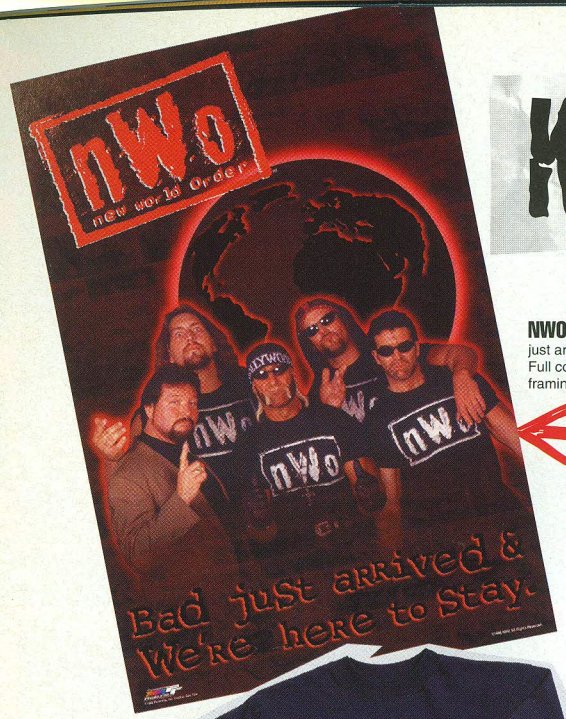


Let's challenge WCW to some court action



Don't mess with the NWO

Kick Butt Like the nWo!



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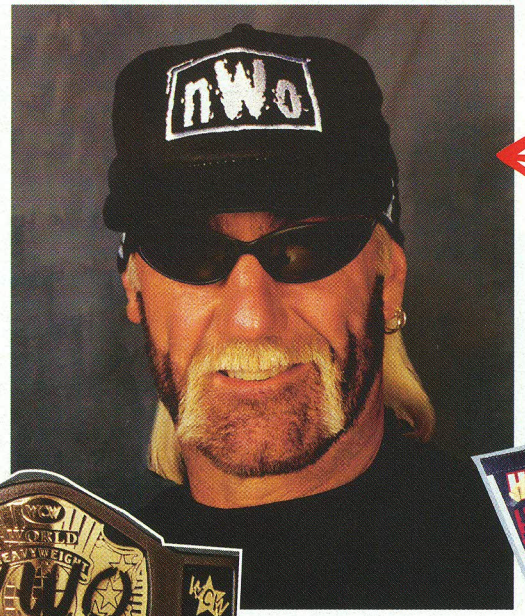

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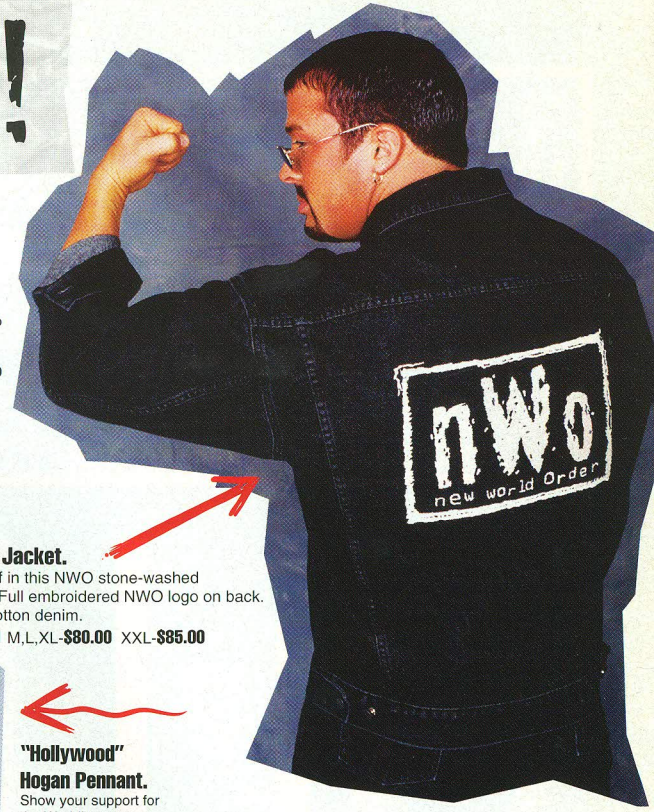

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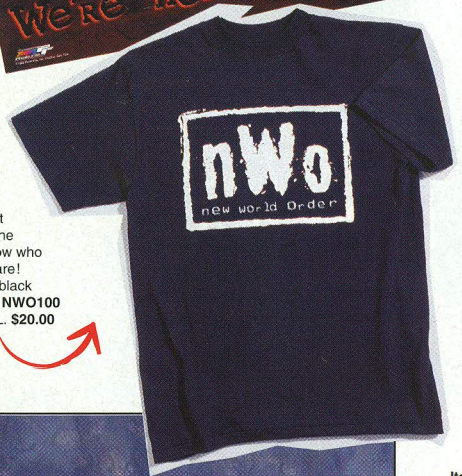

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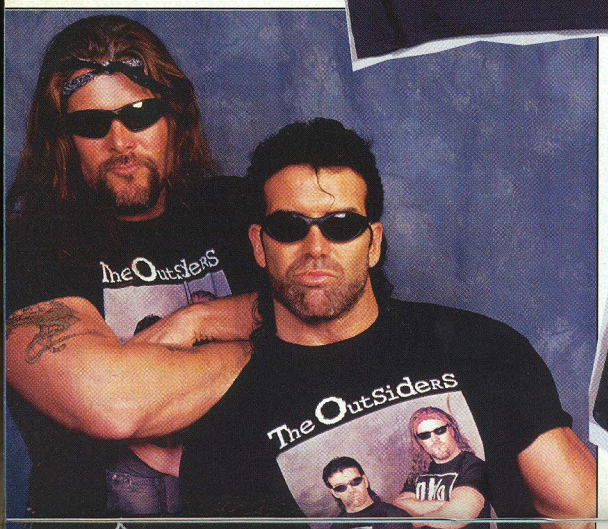
• NWO driver and NASCAR legend Kyle Petty tears up the track at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.



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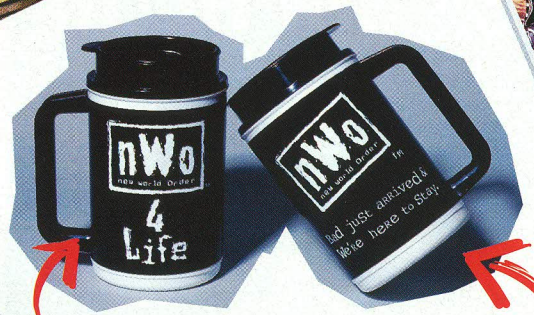

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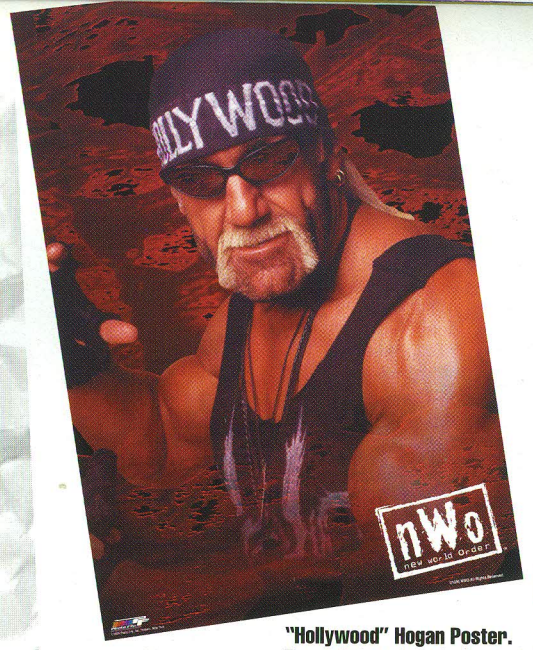

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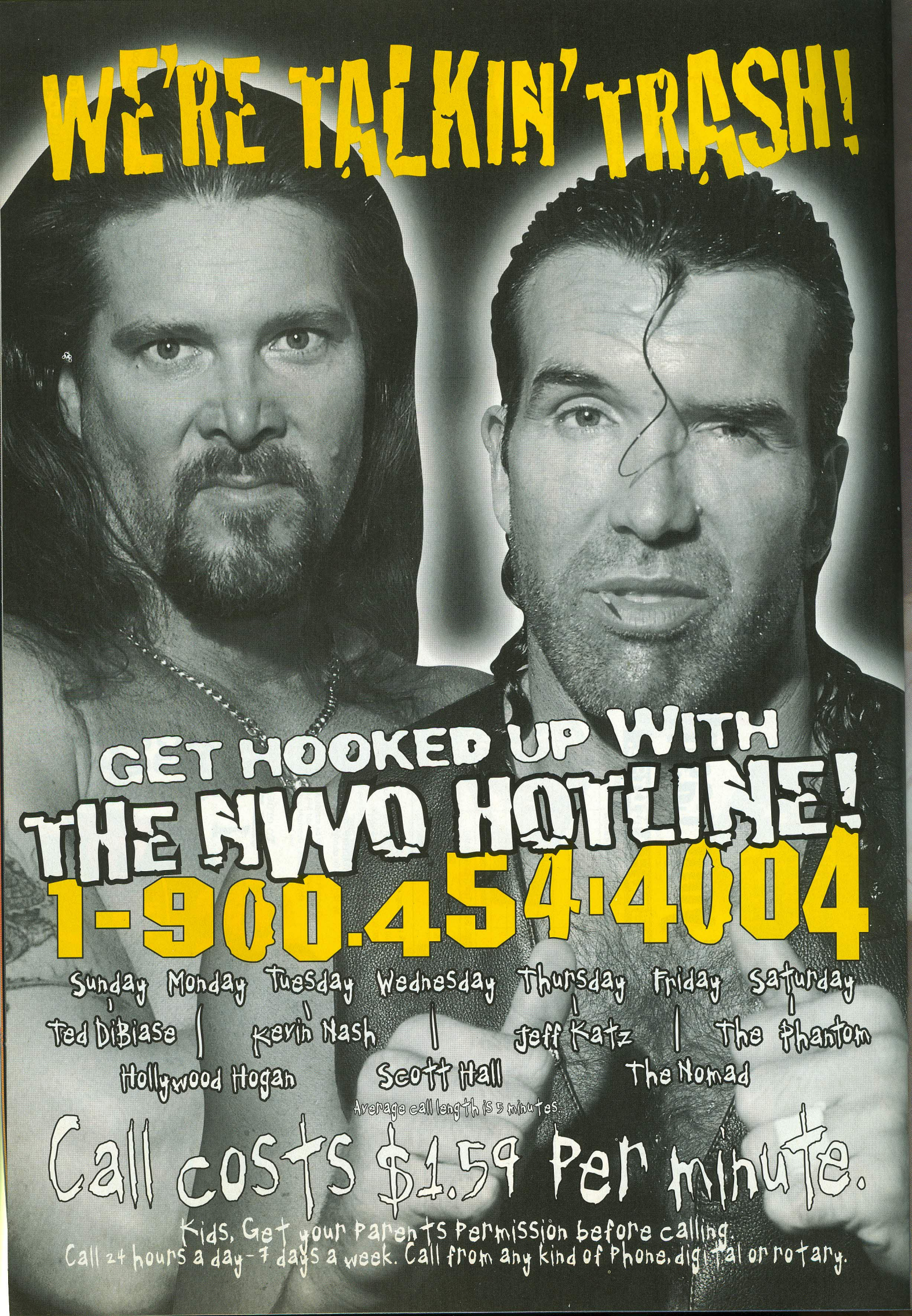
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